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SATURN

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SATURN

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M A Z I N E

ISSUE 9

JULY 96

The ultimate blast 'em up
returns - and it's twice
as good as the original!

VIRTUA COP 2

SATURN INTERNET
CONNECTION

SOVIET STRIKE

EXHUMED

VIRTUA
FIGHTER KIDS

UNVEILED!

The Saturn's new 3D controller!
See page 59!



SONIC X-TREME

Takes 3D gaming to the limits!
We talk to the creator!



PLUS! BUG TOO DUKE NUKEM 3D OVERKILL SPACE HULK MICRO MACHINES AND MORE!

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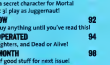
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COVER STORY

VIRTUA COP 2

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The big games of 1996 are already making their way over to these shores, and the first one to arrive is the awesome Virtua Cop II. We've already playtested the game and are proud to bring you the **WORLD EXCLUSIVE** on the first playable version! So, is it any good? This is AMA - the evidence speaks for itself!



SHOWCASES

SONIC X-TREME

32

Sonic steps into the spotlight once again, and prepares himself for an attack on the Saturn! Unwieldy at the recent E3 show, this 3D adventure is still in its initial development stages, but already looks set to dominate the charts this Christmas! We bring you a look at the first shots.

VF KIDS

34

Virtua Fighter goes pint sized this month as VF Kids invade your console! All the moves that you're used to in Virtua Fighter 2, except they've gone all cute, are a bit faster and they're loads easier to do! AMA's most bizarre offering to date!

EXHUMED

40

Ted up of waiting for Doom? Well, you won't have to wait much longer, because in just under a month, Sega are releasing their very own Doom-a-thon, entitled Exhumed, and what's more? It does things that you would never have thought possible on the Saturn!

KONAMI FEATURE

42

Konami have been fairly quiet on the Saturn as anti now, but they have loads of top titles lined up for release this Autumn. We took a trip down to their Chicago headquarters for an exclusive peek at titles to launch!



FIGHTING VIPERS

46

Development pics arrived just as we went to press, and prove that FV will be completely brilliant!

TO BE THIS GOOD TAKES AGES

50

Before the Saturn, there was the Megadrive. Before the Megadrive, there was the Master System, and before that, well, there wasn't much at all. But Sega haven't always programmed games for their own systems, because they didn't always have a system to program for. Rad puts on his Victorian bloomers and takes a look at what people used to do for video game entertainment in the old days.

SPACE HULK

52

Anyone who's ever been into Games Workshop will already have heard of Space Hulk - basically, it's a game where you get to kill loads of different creatures in an incredibly gory manner. Which is why it's ripe for video game conversion. We take a look at how the Saturn conversion is shaping up.

NIGHTS

58

Sega's star programmers at Sonic Team are storming ahead with project NIGHTS, and this month we can bring you more shots showing off their progress! At less than 50% complete, NIGHTS is already one of the most impressive titles ever seen on the Saturn, both graphically and play-wise. Prepare yourself - the final version is only a month away!



SEGA SATURN™ N|E|W|S

THE BIGGEST SHOW IN THE WORLD...EVER!

What can I say? I've just returned from the big show in Los Angeles, the biggest video games exhibition in the entire world and the sheer volume of new Saturn games on offer was incredible! I got to see the first Saturn versions of *Virtua Cop 2*, *VR Kids* and *Sonic X-treme*, plus the technically astounding VFs (which drew huge crowds throughout the show), the Saturn Internet connection kit and tons of other new titles, which you'll be able to read about further in the issue. Probably the most exciting announcement made at the show was that the Saturn's price is dropping yet again to just \$399. Believe me, this Christmas' video games war is going to be very interesting indeed! In the meantime though, just take a look at all the brilliant new stuff in the issue!

Sam Wickham, Editor



SONIC IS BACK!

Yep, as reported in our last issue, Sonic is about to make a comeback of gigantic proportions! Scheduled for a Christmas release, *Sonic X-treme* is already up and running and true to previous Sonic releases is looking absolutely great! To celebrate his born-again fame, Sonic held his very own party in Los Angeles at Theme Park, the House of Blues. Despite Tili's absence, all the other Sega big wigs were there including members of AMK, and both Sega America and Sega Europe heads. Sonic helped dole out golden rings and Sonic tattoos to the partygoers and Sega's American CEO Tom Kalinske took the proceedings by performing a blues-brother-esque dance (complete with hat and dark glasses) and making an extravagant speech to frenzied American partygoers (you excited yelps of "Way to go, Tom!" "Yaaaaa, Sega!" and "We love looooooove!" from the enraptured audience).

Kalinske made many claims throughout the evening, but it was clear to audiences that Sega's mission statement proved that 1996 will be an aggressive year for them. Kalinske announced, "We want to be the leader in the world of interactive entertainment in and out of the home. We are going to win the hi-tech console war by this Christmas both here in the US and abroad. In the future we will have a Sega product in every home. We will sell more than 15 million units this year to bring the domestic base to over a million units... This means 30 bit Saturn sales are on a faster track than 16-bit was when we first introduced it in 1990!"

He then went on to talk about the Saturn's internet connection kit, something Sega clearly have high hopes for. "This truly could be considered as the infomus under \$500 computer everyone's talking about. A key reason why Saturn will win the advanced technology platform war." Apparently network



EVE OF THE E3 SHOW

Sega announce that their competitively priced machine (\$399) combined with the best games will win them the console war this Christmas.



games are already in development for the rethink, with around ten games being made available by Christmas. Developers already signed up are CCI, Westwood studios, Interplay and Accolade.

Kalinske then went on to talk about the software that will be available for Saturn this year, and once again set a high standard for the machine's games. "Frankly the software you'll see on Saturn this fall for Sega and the third party community will blow away anything on PlayStation because we are all learning how to

work the Saturn's CPU and developmental kit." And in reference to NIGHTS, he commented, "Mika can has done it again! We think NIGHTS will do for Saturn what Sonic did for Genesis."

He concluded his speech by giving the audience a sneak peek into the future by revealing, "I'd like to show you what's coming on Saturn... it's *Virtua Fighter 2*! You won't get that on Sony or Nintendo!"



For more Sonic news turn to our special Sonic feature on page 32.



SEGA TEEVEE!

As part of their world domination plan, Sega have also unveiled a new trade trailer of *Sega X-treme* for broadcast in the US. The ad features none other than a very disgruntled Mario taking a look at the new Sega game and becoming very exasperated indeed at the general quality and 3D-ness of the proceedings. Luigi calls him an "idiot" and wonders just how Mario ever got himself into games in the first place! The ad then focuses on the mock Mario's face as he pronounces "Sega scream" in a very meek voice. Don't expect to see this ad over here though - Sega Europe have their own plan this autumn.

VF3 WOWS THE PUNTERS!

One of the most exciting attractions at the show was the unveiling of *Virtua Fighter 3* on the Sega stand. This was the first time that anyone had seen the demo outside of Japan - and it attracted huge crowds throughout the three days of the show in fact. Sega had rigged up a huge video wall to show off their wares, which was placed almost parallel to the VF3 screen, and everyone in the crowd turned their backs on it to watch VF3. Instead on a screen that was around fifteen times smaller!

The demo was running off an actual Model 3 board and scrolled through several of the characters, including Jeffry Yai, Lau, Jacky and the new character Aoi. Almost everyone who saw the demo said it was the most amazing thing they had seen at the show and some of the effects on the characters were absolutely breathtaking. For instance, the movement on Aoi as she performed a traditional Japanese dance was completely fluid and was topped off by realistic

HOW THE PRICE WAS DECIDED

The Sony PlayStation's price drop came as a surprise to everyone at the show, although Sega had heard rumours before the show that this could happen. A cross-continental meeting was immediately set up via telephone between Sega America representatives and Sega Japan, and the final announcement of *Sega Saturn* was made at 6am American time on Friday the second day of the show. A spokesman for Sega's Tom Stalder commented: "This pricing action has always been part of our overall strategic plan." Angelo Edwards, Sega's manager of Public Relations said: "The bottom line is we don't want the price point to determine the game player's choice of a system. Let's don't play pricing games. We want consumers to know it's the game that determines which system is better and nothing else matters."

Luckily the decision was undertaken by Sega Europe to follow in the US's foot steps and bring a *150p* price point to the UK too, meaning that the machine has now broken through the "magical" £400 price point that most retailers believe is needed for the machine to go mass market. To us, it seems impossible that either of the machines will drop again in price, so from now on, at least the console war will be fought on an even footing - with the focus being more on what really matters - the games!

facial movements and a costume that flowed and moved with the character rather than looking like "cardboard" clothes. As for the other characters, their movements were more big and fast and the detail is much more intricate than in the last two versions.

At the time of writing, there were no playable versions of the game up and running, but it is thought that the first playable version should be unveiled by A&A within the next few months. However, playable or not, the demo proves just how powerful the Model 3 board is - if people were astounded by this demo, imagine what they'll be like when the final version arrives!



STOP PRESS!

At Sega's house of illume party, Tom Kalish announced that *Virtua Fighter 3* will be coming to the Saturn! He didn't give a precise release date (and who could blame him seeing as the Coleco version isn't even finished yet!) but it's thought that it may arrive in the early months of 1997. More news as and when!

SEE THE WORLD!

As predicted by SGA SATURN MAGAZINE some months ago, the internet connection facility for the Saturn was finally unveiled at the E3 show! The Sega Saturn Net Link, a modem and browser peripheral brings the internet to the Saturn and allows you to get on-line via the TV. This means that when the peripheral is launched, every Saturn owner will have the chance to use the world wide web service, email and they'll also be able to play specially created network games (joining them Baku Baku Animal and the remaster of Command and Conquer!).

The actual peripheral is a 28.8kps speed modem, combining a net browser, which will go on sale in the States this autumn for \$99. A UK release date is yet to be confirmed.

The actual package plugs into the cartridge port of the Saturn, and included in the package is CD-based HTML software that allows the Saturn to access internet sites. At the moment, the add-on will be able to utilise a standard PC board via the use of an adaptor, although Sega will be bringing out their own keyboard and mouse shortly after the peripheral is launched. For those without the access to a PC board, Sega have created a virtual keyboard and a space magnifying function so that users will be able to send email and look at information on screen at the size they require, rather than having to squint at tiny text on a screen.

When buyers decide to go on line they will receive one month's worth of free service, then a subsequent month, the fee will be from \$4.95 every month.

There were plenty of chances to test the peripheral out at the show, and information retrieval was fairly fast, but more than that, it was really easy to use. In fact, the only problem we can see with the system at all, is that due to the Saturn's memory capabilities, it will be high on impossible to store information, although there are rumours that Sega are developing a disk drive for use with the peripheral. Other than that, a spokesman for Sega at the show said that they were also utilising a "bookmark" system whereby users can return to the information they require as soon as they're on the net, which again, would go some way to solving the "memory" problem. Anyway, as we said, there's no release date planned for this one in the UK at the moment, but Sega are hoping to get it on sale before Christmas of this year, at a price to be confirmed.



NEW CONTROLLER UNVEILED

Revealed at the show was a new analogue joystick, specifically designed for use with 3D games. The as yet unnamed controller features the usual directional pad plus six buttons, but also has a rollerball d-pad placed above the usual 4-pad. This makes it much easier to play 3D games such as NIGHTS and the forthcoming Sonic 3D game, and after the initial minutes that it takes to get used to the control system, it proves to be a completely natural way to play any 3D game. It's likely that the pad will go on sale at the same time as the UK version of NIGHTS - which with any luck should be September 5.



GOLF ANYONE

Saturn owners missed out on last year's conversion of PGA, as at the time EA weren't converting titles for the Saturn. But luckily golf fans will have no cause for concern this year as the legendary PGA will be making its way to Saturn in the coming months of this year. Yep, so it's goodbye to all those awful golf sims that you've had to put up with in the last year, and hello to a top-quality game (hopefully). Anyway, it seems that people were a bit disappointed with last year's PGA, so the engine has been overhauled for this game too, so you can expect to see something a bit different this time.



BUBSY GETS ON THE BANDWAGON!

If you were an old Megadrive fan, you'll probably remember Bubsy – he appeared in two platform games a couple of years back and enjoyed minor success on most 16-bit systems. Well, anyway, he's back and as a something of a prequel in these days of 3D gaming, he's in his very own 3D game. Yep, although this main sprite looks exactly the same as he did in the Megadrive titles, the game has changed incredibly with all of the action taking place in a 3D environment.

At the moment, the game is still in the very early stages of development, but there was a playable version up and running at the show – the character runs around a series of fairly coloured environments, jumping on enemies and picking up bonuses – much in the same way as Bg, although it has to be said that Bubsy is in no way comparable to

Segasoft's game at this instant.

Anyway, with a lot of development time still left to go, it's quite possible that Accolade will turn out a good product by the time the game's ready for release, but with titles such as Sonic on the way and as Accolade don't actually have a UK office, it will probably be released through Warner this Autumn.



SCAVENGER STYLE

Once again, Scavenger proved a force to be reckoned with, showing off a whole bunch of titles – all of them Saturn based over the next year. Amok and Scorder are still yet to be finished, although both should be out by summer, but it seems that Scavenger have even more impressive stuff on the way. Probably the most stunning title on offer was Into the Shadows, a 3D slash 'em up adventure (not Doom style) with huge sprites and a very dark feel to the proceedings. A playable version was up and running at the show and proved to be incredibly smooth and pretty fast too. A running demo is also apparently available on Scavenger's web site, so if anyone's on line they can get a sneak preview of things to come.

Also on show was Titanbale, a game which obviously features a giant spider as its main attraction. Again, huge sprites were displayed and the motion of this arachnid was very realistic indeed. A small demo was playable which allowed you to test out the spider's poisoning motions as well as exploring the environments, and although plenty of other developers also seemed to be using spiders in their games, Scavenger's effort was easily the most impressive.

Timeless and Aqua were the other products on show, the former was a milling demo of a benzene-rat woman in yet another dark setting – looking pretty good even though it's an early version. The latter is quite difficult to define at the moment, but is set underwater and features some amazing translucent effects. We should be able to get hold of more information on both of these products within the next month.



BUG'S BACK FOR MORE!

Another of Segas high profile projects unveiled at the show was Bug Tool, the sequel to Sega's hugely popular platform game. Bug! We managed to catch up with Bug's producer Steve Apout, and he informed us that there will be more emphasis on 3D play than in the last game and that they were also looking into the difficulty of the original title – and thinking of changing it for the sequel! We managed to get a quick playtest of the game and true to their word the developers down at Segasoft have certainly made more use of 3D and the graphics look much more tidy too.

In this sequel there's a choice of three different playable characters – in addition to the original Bug character there's a series of his hero icon type by the name of Superfly and there's a little mascot dog too. They all have different strengths and weaknesses as you'd expect, although you don't have to choose a particular character to get through a specific level.

Anyway Bug Tool is loads more in depth than the first game, and looks pretty stunning graphically, even though the title is barely more than 20% complete. In fact it's not even due out over here until around December, so it's a pity that coverage on this one won't begin until later in the year.

DAY ONE OF E3

Sony held a press conference, and announce they are slashing the price of Playstation hardware from \$499 and £499 to \$199 and £199 in the UK.



RULE THE WORLD!

Displayed on both the Virgin and the Sega stands, was the very first version of *Conquest and Conquer on the Saturn*. As anyone with a PC will no doubt already know, this was the biggest selling game in Europe in 1996, and has won numerous awards (not to mention a bit of controversy over its notorious ad campaign) for its in-depth gameplay.

The game is strategy based, with the aim being to conquer lands with the help of your expert army. After building up your manpower, you can assign them certain tasks which they'll then carry out right down to the last order, using various weapons to get the job done. There's plenty of cut scenes to spice the action up and you can play either against other people or against the computer – opponents will also be attempting to claim the land as their own. Anyway, it's a bit like Risk if anyone has heard of that, except that the action is much updated and loads quicker.

There's rumour that this will be among the first batch of games to utilise the Saturn's Netlink and if this is true, it could easily make this one of the best selling Saturn games of the year. Next month we should be able to get our hands on a playable version, and with any luck we'll be bringing you a showcase on the game.



MICRO MACHINES RETURNS!

The Megalogue developers Codemasters signed a deal with Sega (just before the E3 show) which allows them to publish all their top titles on the Saturn. At the moment, it seems as though *Micro Machines* and *Stompin' Extraneous* titles will be making their way to the Saturn in the next few months, although *Micro Machines* was the only product available to playtest at the show.

Although the programmers decided to utilize 3D for the latest version, it was good to see that all the brilliant playability from the last three versions was still evident in the game – in fact it remains almost identical in terms of playstyle where the races take place in different rooms of a house, plus levels out in the gar-

den and around the toilet rim. However, it differs from the 16-bit versions in that the races are played over different screen levels, with huge drops in between sections of track and multi-angled viewing.

There's no doubt that *Micro Machines* is going to be a huge hit when it's released this Autumn, although it has to be said that the programmers have a huge amount of development time to catch up on – the game is already playable on the PlayStation and Codemasters are hoping for a simultaneous or as near as possible release for Saturn. Look out for a showcase within the next couple of months!



TIME ATTACK FINISH!

ATTACK! After six months of countless milly driving, our Sega Rally Time Attack competition has reached its conclusion. So where are the results? We hear you blubber in slight confusion and despair. Worry not. While you're reading this, three responsible for the three fastest times are being contacted and asked to cough up their video evidence. In next month's issue we'll print the winners, along with the video showing just how they managed to get such a fast time — and by thunder it is fast! Anyway, don't send us any more entries now. We don't want to over-receive them and then with it you do need to try more entries, we'll be forced to cover your house and burn all the libraries upside down to continue your.

DEM BONES

Another title deep in development from Sega's is *Mr Bones*, an adventure game featuring a skeleton. In his normal stringy state, *Mr Bones* is a pretty useless kind of guy, but by manipulating his bones in all kinds of inventive ways, he can do things he would previously only dreamed about! Part of the game was playable at the show, although there's loads of development time left to go on this one — in fact it's unlikely to see a release until the closing months of this year!



ONE TO WATCH!

A couple of months ago we brought you shots of the then in-development version of *Oceanhorn*, an arcade title developed using the ST-V board. Well, the game is nearing completion and should do really well, as it's released in time for the Olympic Games. How exciting though is the news that the Saturn version will appear in Japan almost straightaway and should be in the shops by mid-July. There's also plans to release the game in Europe in a couple of months' time, and work has already begun on a PAL conversion. So, you can definitely expect to see a showcase on the title in our next issue.



FORMER SOVIET UNION SEES STRIKE

One of the most impressive, yet understated games at the show had to be Electronic Arts' *Soviet Strike*, the fourth game in the Strike series and the first on a next generation system.

Created by the developers of the original game, this fourth installment takes place in the former Soviet Union, where you're drafted in once again to catch the bad guys and complete very specific mission objectives. The game's developers decided not to take the fashionable option and make the game a first person perspective adventure. Instead, sticking to the traditional overhead gameplay, which serves the game very well indeed. However, despite using similar play mechanics, *Soviet Strike* looks distinctly different from the other three games in that the graphics are completely updated, with loads of detail on the helicopter and the terrain too.

We had a quick playtest of the early game at the show (at the moment, only one level of the title is complete) and it was easily one of the most impressive titles on offer. Look out for more news nearer to its release date in Autumn.



THIS YEAR'S BEST SELLER?

Well, it wouldn't be a complete show report without the inclusion of a new FIFA game would it? Top EA are preparing this year's Christmas assault at this very moment, and as ever, the early version indicates that this installment will be every bit as good as the previous four versions of the game, and this time, the developers have decided to give both the game engine and the graphics a bit of an overhaul and the result is a much smoother, deeper game than before, with vastly improved graphics. You can bet that this is going to be yet another amazing success for EA come December — the magical FIFA can't possibly fail!

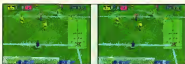
DAY TWO OF E3

Sega follow in Sony's footsteps and after all-night telephone calls to Sega Japan, decide to slash their price point to \$99 too. There's no mention of a UK price point though.



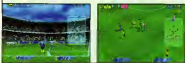
DAY THREE OF E3

Sega Europe are still undecided over the pricepoint of the UK Saturn. There's talk of pack-in deals at £249 and a standalone at £399, but no decision is made.



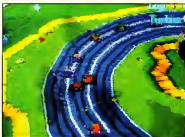
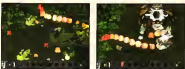
MORE SOCCER FOR SATURN!

Worldwide Soccer has been around on the import scene for a couple of months already under the name of Virtua Goal 2 - but they don't let that put you off, this is way better than anything in the first game! In fact, by all accounts, this could just turn out to be the 'fiddle game of the year' - the graphics are brilliant, the gameplay beats the pants off anything seen on any other system, and even better, Sega are hoping to have it released in this country in time for Christmas! Work on a PAL conversion has commenced, and it should be a pretty easy task as it's unlikely that the gameplay will change much - any alterations will probably involve the teams more than anything else. Anyway, we can't bring you much info on this one at the moment, but believe us, this is going to be absolutely huge come Christmas!



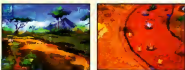
CONTRA GETS CONVERSION

Remember Probotector on the Megadrive? It was a huge hit for both Megadrive and SMS, and in a fit of brilliance, Konami have decided to convert it to the Saturn too! And, while the graphics are much more detailed than any version seen before, the gameplay remains as riveting as it ever was, and Konami have also decided to include a special 3D option which requires the player to wear special 3D specs (included with the game). It's difficult to say how well this option will work, but hey, if you don't like it, you can always turn the option off and play the game as normal! Expect to see more on this one over the coming months.



STREETRACER BLASTS ON TO SATURN

Following Ubisoft's hi-bit hit with Streetracer, the French development company have decided to port the game across to the Saturn. The cartoon-based racing game will feature improved graphics and will even utilize a high-player split screen option, something which was unfortunately unavailable for playtest at the show. This is scheduled for an Autumn release and provided the multi-player option is up to scratch, it should prove very popular.



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SONY



DUKE NUKEM 3D

Distribution GT, first becoming known as "the company with all the Doom games" have announced yet another first-person perspective shoot 'em up to add to their collection. Duke Nukem 3D, already released on other formats, was signed up for release on the Saturn at the show, and although there was no version of the game available to playtest, should do really well when it's released in the Autumn.

Although the game utilizes a standard Doom engine, it differs from ID's games in that there's more blood, multi-layered levels, the game plays faster and the character can do things like go to the toilet and wear a hat.

Obviously, the game will receive an E certificate in this country. But even if you're younger, you probably wouldn't want to miss it at around Christmas time when it's released!



BEEN PUT BAKU BAKU

Baku Baku Animal finally is hitting the shops any day now, and will go on sale for Sega Saturn. Buy it now!



ONE WEEK LATER

Sega announce that the UK Saturn's price will also drop to £199! Much dancing and jubilation is undertaken by anyone thinking of buying a Saturn!

WORK BEGINS ON MANX!

Although Manx TT wasn't revealed at the E3 show, some interesting news regarding the conversion slipped out on the first day of the show. Apparently, this will be the first racing game to incorporate Dodge (Bikes) per second into the gameplay, and although Sega haven't confirmed this is true, it's definitely something that they're aiming for. Manx has already begun on the conversion, although it's unlikely that we'll be able to get hold of any screenshots for a couple of months at least - a special top secret fence are working on the project. Anyway, sorry that there's no pictures available for this one yet, but here's a couple from the arcade anyway, just to remind you of what this awesome game looks like.



May it's one of the others in Manx TT? You know, if you're really lucky, you might get to see the very first screenshots at this next event. Then again, you may have to wait a bit longer. It all depends.



16-BIT GETS SONIC AND VIRTUA FIGHTER

Yes, you did read that right. *Virtua Fighter* will be released on the Megadrive! An announcement was made at the E3 show confirming that VF will appear on 16-bit this Christmas, although no version or screenshots were available at the time of going to press. It appears that *Virtua Fighter* will be renamed *Virtua Fighter Animation* and the graphics will be changed to more "Streetfighter"-characters and will not utilize polygons. Anyway, if any of you still have a soft spot for 16-bit, you may want to check this out later on in the year.

As for the 16-bit *Sonic* game, Sega have done the Megadrive proud with an absolutely stunning adventure entitled *Sonic 3D*. Obviously, the game is completely 3D and although there's more freedom of movement, it plays in a very similar way to previous *Sonic* games. Another one due for a Christmas release, this looks as though it's Sega's "goodbye" to the Megadrive and already looks set to sell by the bucketload.



MANX MIX

Sometimes, in the excitement of putting SEGA SATURN MAGAZINE together we make mistakes. Little they seem usually, but last month we made a bit of a blunder when we pictured Sega's *Manx TT* bike alongside a story about Virgin's sponsorship of rider Justin Robinson. That was wrong, and we truly apologise. In fact, the real deal is that Sega have sponsored their very own team in the forthcoming role of *Manx TT* racer, from Sega's *Sacred*. The team is led by four-time winner of the championship, Jimmie Maudsle which means that with any luck they'll probably win again! Anyway, sorry for any misunderstandings that might have arisen over this story.



HMV CHARTS

Week ending May 21, 1995



	Title	By
1	Streetfighter Remix	Sega
2	Panzer Dragoon Zwei	Sega
3	Sega Rally	Sega
4	Virtua Cop (game and gun)	Sega
5	NFL: Quarterback Club	Sega
6	X-Men Children Of The Atom	Acclaim
7	NBA '96	Electronic Arts
8	Sim City 2000	Sega
9	D	Acclaim
10	Wipeout	Sega

SATURN MAGAZINE CHARTS

1	Streetfighter Alpha	Sega
2	Virtua Fighter 2	Sega
3	Euro '96	Sega
4	Ikki: Tokyo Animal	Sega
5	Virtua Fighter 2	Sega
6	Panzer Dragoon 2	Sega
7	Sega Rally	Sega
8	Loaded	Greenin
9	Gangriffin	Sega
10	Need for Speed	EA

READER CHARTS

1	Sega Rally	Sega
2	Panzer Dragoon 2	Sega
3	Streetfighter Alpha	Sega
4	Virtua Cop	Sega
5	Daytona USA	Sega
6	Euro '96	Greenin
7	Panzer Dragoon	Sega
8	Wing Arms	Sega
9	X-Men	Acclaim
10	Mystaria	Sega

Send us by email
Email or letter
Send a game or an
the way to you!

If you would like to see your chart features, send in your top ten to READER CHARTS, SEGA SATURN MAGAZINE, PO BOX 30, HARRISON LANE, LONDON EC8 3AD. Anyone who has their charts printed will receive a game for their troubles!

IREM ARCADE CLASSICS

Games that wear flares!

CHARACTER	GAME STYLE	RELEASE DATE
Iron	Competition	1982
Samurai	Crumbly side-on of a long ago ago	
SENJI AND KID	Watching one of these kids. Ten Laugh compilation	
of Ashraf Gary by and Tony Hancock sketches everyone thought were really funny in the Sixties.		

Old people tell you all sorts of lies about how much better everything was when they were young. You could leave your back door open, bread tasted better, the sunsets were redder etc etc etc. What they generally neglect to mention is that they were constantly bugged, ate bits of dead fieldmouse and watched distant cities burning brightly in the hills. Such is the inductive power of rose-tinted lenses. The same rules apply when talking about old games. Weary gamers harks (he - us) can ramble on for hours about how great all the ancient Spectrum titles are (especially Dave, retro games like), even the ones which were, even then, crap. One of the names which crops up unavoidably during these sessions is Irem. Irem are one of the biggest names in the old games biz, as they're among the longest-running software houses in the world. They're responsible for some of the finest flash of video games, producing innovative arcade machines such as Metronom and B-Type along the way. They also obviously perpetrated the three titles on the first instalment of Irem Classics, a trip through history with the wacky folks from Irem. The games on offer here are Zippy Race, Ten Yard Fight and the legendary Kung-Fu Master.

All of these date back about ten years or more so as you can expect they're not quite on the cutting edge of polygon technology. Ash readers but this is a back when games were games, featuring chunky colourful block graphics, not more than two buttons and the most irritating sound you've ever heard in your life. They're what your mum and dad think games are like.

So how did "the kids" electronically entertain themselves in years gone by? Why with racing games. Sports games and beat 'em ups. Zippy Race sees you on a motorbike involved in an American coast-to-coast jaunt. Driving up the screen avoiding the obstacles and other vehicles along your path. There are five stages which alternate between road racing and cross-country scrambling (ie the roads between Denver and Chicago must be pretty crap) with only your fuel gauge to stand in the

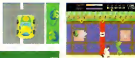
way of completing the run. Ten Yard Fight is surprisingly an American football effort. Not on the scale of John Madden or anything - you can't even pass the ball once you've completed kickoff or whatever it's called. Indeed you never play in defence either. Basically you either score a touchdown in the time limit or you don't. Of course there's more to it than that - but not a lot. Kung-Fu Master holds a special place in the memory of any die-hard gamer. The precursor to games like Streets of Rage (but without any screen depth), KFM asks you to traverse a series of horizontally scrolling stages beating up thugs and knife throwers (with a single punch is all) and avoiding snakes, dragons and bombs.

Anything which only has five levels, even can ordering boxes, has to provide a decent challenge, and Kung-Fu Master is famous for being rock.

As in fact are all the games on offer - the shortness of the content makes this essential and means there's no such thing as continues. The burning question is whether any one of them has stood up to the notoriously tricky exam set by Old Father Time. Well, we'll tell you next month if you're good.



From the gaming master such as this old mighty software rules grow. Kung-Fu.



ZIPPY RACE

A wile in its day thanks to an innovative use of switching perspective. As your bike approaches its destination the view changes from an above-the-action camera to a behind-the-player one, as you drive into the screen avoiding the oncoming motoros.

NOT AS IMPRESSIVE AS: *Sega Rally*
ADDITIONALITY: You can only ride a single motorbike.



You can just feel the pulse-pounding thrills in store for you in Zippy Race.



Keep your motor racing, head out on the highway, looking for adventures, and whatever comes my way. But don't forget to collect fuel.



The intricate plot details of Kung-Fu Master are fully explained and brilliantly broadcast.



You can see the wealth of narrative involved from this complete look at the whole lot.

KUNG-FU MASTER

Guide your brave (or foolish) hero through flat horizontal levels populated with jado bikers who sap your energy with their grabs, knife throwers (who need all of two hits to kill) dragons and snakes which drop from the ceiling, floating bombs and rock hard bosses - and sometimes all of these at the same time. Don't wet your pants.

Guardian Heroes
ADDITIONALITY: Two - one punches one kick (but just use kick all the time - it's easier).



TEN YARD FIGHT

Clever use of one central player surrounded by team mates who stay in formation but follow your path, allowing the player to block the opposing defence with computer dummies whilst running for that glorious touch-down. It also takes your snail-like quarterback about a hundred years to run a single lengthy yard.

NOT AS IMPRESSIVE AS: *Joe Montana American Football on the Master System*
ADDITIONALITY: A righty two buttons, one for the kick off and another to pass to your running player or shake off opponents who grab your shoulders.



SEABASS FISHING

PUBLISHER	GAME STYLE	RELEASE DATE
JVC	Sports sim	July
100% GOLF	The hunting method and popular position	
NEW & HOT LINK	Well, not, sitting on a boat getting a sunset. (except fishing is well)	

And I'm telling you, it was this big! Honest!



"I think my name's sort of... right and yes, I'd like to fish!"



With catching fish, it's all in the eye. As soon as they think you know you've got them... oh, hold on, fish aren't blind. Maybe it's the glare...



Think very hard for a moment. Try to imagine a position that no one would ever contemplate using as a premise for a game.

Right up there with car maintenance and gardening would no doubt be fishing. Well, with the latter I'm afraid you're completely wrong because Sea Bass Fishing uses exactly that premise: yes, you are hearing things right, we're talking about a fishing sim here. Bizarre as this may seem to you at the moment, imagine for a minute the reaction of many when someone first declared that a golfing sim would be a good idea. Or, so you might think there's a bit more to golf than there is to fishing but, at your average Johnny McFish would tell you, that's just because you don't know fishing.

Sea Bass Fishing would seem to be a testament to this, containing as it does complexities you'd never think of associating with a sport of the sea: reel 'n' tackle.

JVC are the company behind a UK release of the game. It's already proved quite popular in Japan, catching the more mature market with its relaxed and meditative

qualities. And JVC hope it will absorb the golfing style fan. Your dad, basically.

Sea Bass Fishing actually shares a few character traits in common with the golfing game. You'll notice the golf-style power bar which you use to cast your tackle, and the subtleties of which you must master to reel in a fish. It's also something to do with the leisurely pace of the game which sees you nonchalantly sailing from place to place in search of the elusive Sea Bass — the most prized of an angler's catches.

Players choose between taking part in the illustrious competition or simply fishing far from off the coasts and estuaries of what we can only presume is Japan. Judging by the competition is based on the weight of a fish, the kind of fish it is and how many you manage to capture within a particular time period. The expert advice of Danwa (renowned fishing guru apparently) has been

used to try and develop as realistic a feel to the game as possible. After getting up bright and early you select the captain of your boat and head out to one of a variety of destinations, remembering of course to pack your rod and range of tackle.

When you get a bite, the action switches to an underwater scene where you witness your fish struggling to be the one that got away. Now's when your expertise in trailing and tracking the fish comes to the fore. If you're having a rough time of it, the captain's there to suggest an alternative of strategy and generally blather on about his or her adventures on the high seas.

So is it simply a bit of novelty value or is this there really a game here? We'll save our comments for the review first month. For now though, take out those soggy sandwiches and your flask of lukewarm tea and wait for the first bite of the day!



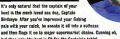
FISH FOR THOUGHT



After you've settled the fish, its style and size are just an added bonus.



THE LURE OF THE FISH

[illegible]

Engl: dear fellow and good luck to you

Here are the destinations on offer to you:

Fight stars like some kind of
drunken tramp at the Oscars!

STARFIGHTER 3000

PUBLISHER	GAME STYLE	RELEASE DATE
SEGA	Shooting Game	1998
Developer	Amusement Machine	
VIDEO A NOT LIKE		



Y

ou know the space ship that appears on the Saturn CD screen if you leave it for a bit? Well, now's your chance to fly it in combat! It thanks to this new blaster by Tehtar. Well, not quite, but your craft in Starfighter 3000 bears quite a striking resemblance to the one found free inside every Saturn. However, this is mere coincidence, as Starfighter 3000 first made its name on the GDO some time ago, when free space ships in 32-bit consoles were the stuff of fantasy. Now fast the

times turn, readers. Anyway, this is another of those future war titles, where the player helms a one-man defense force kicking aliens off of planet Earth. Or perhaps some other planet. In fact, for all we know, you might be kicking invading Earthlings off an entirely different planet. The plot hasn't been explained all that specifically. Not

that it matters, because all Starfighter 3000 wants you to do is DESTROY.

There are fifty—in fact, more than fifty—missions of doom contained within Starfighter. Each mission contains a number of objectives which you're allowed to tackle in any order you wish. But, and this is the clever bit kids, the order in which you complete each sub-mission affects the way the rest of the level goes. For example, knocking out radar stations prevents your enemies from targeting missiles at you

whereas ignoring hangars may lead to extra airborne defenses coming at you in the later stages of the game. Like most titles we see these days,

Starfighter is viewed in glorious Third-Person-View. You can view your plane type thing viewed from a manual perspective. However, there's a "unique" system being developed which should allow you to target mis-

siles at odd to agents whilst still fighting foes dead ahead. And that's not all—Tehtar promise a surfeit of little extras like chain reaction attacks, super weapons, experimental fighter planes and even bonus games to tickle your interest gland.

So is Starfighter 3000 going to be an essential plasma-fest at the Devil's table, or is it the sort of game that'll have you wandering round your house smacking things with a cricket bat chanting "bored bored bored"? Well, it's not finished yet, so we can't tell you—but we will in a future issue. Promise.

WICKEDY BASS BAD BOY

Just because games are being put on CDs these days, every software house in the world has suddenly become obsessed with the music accompanying the action. Like if they're good enough loads of people are going to start buying silly quad games just to play on their regular CD player at home. Starfighter 3000 is the latest of these wickidly churward-bound games, featuring as it does a collection of eight EIGHT—eight!—soundtracks ranging (as it says here) from "wicked" to "full-on space battle!" Henny, that's nearly two-thirds of an album's worth of music.

Amusing.



Another thrilling display of aerobatics from these invincible stout pilots the Grey Devils. Not really. It's just your space ship travelling in a straight line.



Check your favorite's track here.





WINGMEN FOR ADDED PROTECTION

Starfighter includes it's one of them "thinking man's short-run-up" things, which means you're not to use your head inside a lift as well as your finger. Chief element in this, shall we say, reconstruction of the previously made-on-which? (Holding press) is an option to control various of the. Apparently you'll be able to give orders to a lot of wingmen to your pleasure for whatever group of planes are called, sending them off to looking for flying targets or looking them around you. It's better, you see, in a comedy role.



Practicing camera changes what you can see and that. Lots of games are doing this now because it's dead easy with polygons.



PILOT YOUR OWN ANGELS OF DEATH!

Clayton's idea for Starfighter allows us to take our missiles into targets, meaning they find their own way to their destination even if it's moving. Highly useful for destroying enemy helicopters flying over your house. If you've too poor to buy your own missiles, perhaps the "lock-on" facility present in Starfighter good will interest you. It allows the player to use a separate camera for firing missiles from perspective - meaning the dogfight combat you'll doubtless be engaged in most and be interrupted simply for the devastation of an objective sitting on the ground.

A beautifully designed space ship which looks far better than most of those grotesque alienations found in games.





LOADED?!!



Well do you cyber kids? Eh? You've come to the right place then because this here's the **Loaded** competition, and those kind souls at **Gremlin** have very generously offered to give away loads of prizes to celebrate the release of their blast 'em up extravaganza.

As our review on page 62 will tell you, *Loaded* is a very fine game indeed. After perusing the screenshots you're probably getting very excited at the thought of mass gat-spilling bone-snapping action, but hold on there Trigger Boy because, like the characters in *Loaded*, you have a chance to beat the rap and get your hands on a copy without paying for it. No we don't mean shove into your local games shop with a flamethrower and ultra-bomb - you can win a copy! And that's not all.

THE PRIZE

So there you are, listening to your grunge favourites on that tiny single speaker Hi-Fi that your dad got from a Boot Fair for 60p.

Well it needn't be like that you know, especially considering the fact that Gremlin are giving away a lovely new Sony stereo as the first prize in their competition, and what's more, you get a signed copy of the new Pop Will Eat Itself album, "Two Fingers My Friend", along with a copy of the game and the obligatory T-Shirt. Pretty damn good I'm sure you'll agree. There are also five runners-up prizes which come in the shape of the game, wrapped in a lovely *Loaded* T-Shirt!

THE QUESTION "Just tell me what I have to do!" we hear you scream maniacally along the telepathic highway. As usual it's all quite simple. Just answer this obviously easy question:

What's the name of the pistol-wielding pirate in *Loaded*?

Oh, now stick your answers on a postcard, back of an envelope, bit of cereal packet etc. and send them in to **LOADED COMPO**, SEGA SATURN MAGAZINE, PRIORITY COUNT, 30-32 FARNHAM ROAD, LONDON EC9 7JL.

LOADED



BB SEGA

TO BAKU CAN SERIOUSLY DAMAGE YOUR HEALTH

BAKU
BAKU

SEGA PC
GAME GEAR
SEGA SATURN

letter

Hello, I'm RAD and I still answer your letters



TM



Noisy readers, summer is upon us, the bright days of the year blessing us with their rayy fingers etc etc etc. We end up saying this sort of thing every year, but that's because our offices look like the prison from *Loaded* and a bit of sunshine is the only comfort we get. Sadly though it also means "hibernation" is not a valid excuse for skiving anymore, so I've had to do some work. Bottoms. Anyway, why don't you go out into the garden, or down the park or somewhere, and write us a lovely sun-filled letter. When you've finished post the resultant discourse to us at **DRIVING SAM'S HOLIDAY IN THE SUN LETTERS, SEGA SATURN MAGAZINE, PRIORITY COURT, 30-32 FARRINGTON LANE, LONDON, EC1R 3AU.** Thank you very much.

UP THE SATURN 2

CHRIS SMIL

After writing the news in the May edition of your great mag, I have to say that I am totally disgusted by Sega's new hardware release - the Egg Saturn. A CD console it will be brilliant for all those who haven't been able to buy a Next Generation machine because of the price, but what about those of us who bought the Saturn when it was first released? If Sega had told us that within a year of its release the price of the hardware was to go down by Egg then I think most of us would have waited for the Saturn 2. As it is, quite a few of us have suffered at the hands of Sega. I was one of the lucky few who got a full price Saturn for Christmas, which cost a bomb, so bringing the price down so drastically so quickly seems unfair and is no laughing matter. I think Sega should offer a free gift or something for all those people who returned their guarantee card by a certain date, just to soften the blow. Otherwise hundreds of Saturn owners like myself will feel very hard done by.

Ben Taylor, Brentford, N. Devon.

Come down Ben, the Saturn 2 costs the equivalent of Egg in Japan only and comparing the price they pay for hardware with the price we pay is a bit ridiculous anyway. And besides, haven't you heard the news? The Saturn is being reduced to Egg in Britain, for more details check the news pages.

ARCADE RACER FURORE CONTINUES

DEAN SMIL

In reply to M Livingstone (June 1) I would like to point out that the Arcade Racer does NOT make racing games easier. Don't get me wrong, it's a wicked addition to the Saturn and is well worth buying: it adds a very realistic feel to all driving games from Cyber Speedway, but it is easier to use a joystick, as you can droop it up your car a bit quicker and easier, especially in Sega Rally. So either you've got a dodgy joystick or you need to polish up your digital "gaming" skills! (No offence).

Yours faithfully,

David "Doc" Adams, Quid On Sea, Kent.

Did your dad have something to do with the design for the Arcade Racer or something? I mean, except its wheels all go flat, but saying it even improves Cyber Speedway?

AN OLD BLOKE

DEAN SMIL

If software houses are still looking for games to put onto the Next Generation console that they think will sell thousands of copies why do they not look back at older games and rework them. I still own and even use a now very old and outlandish Atari 8000. It still got hours of fun from classic software titles such as Boulder Dash, Boulder Dash on Fractal and Star Raiders 2. In years gone by these titles were top notch, the big reds etc etc. Who can forget Elite, Sledge War, Spy Vs Spy, old games that we never thought would be out dated by a videogame and a rifle can. I am sure that

many readers of this excellent publication would agree that this is a readers survey of games they



Sega Rally lives old games too. Check out its regular Rats Computer table in our sister publication GEM.

would most like to see reworked on the Saturn would be more popular than a general survey and who knows maybe a software house such as Core, Accolade or even the AM people might resurrect a little piece of history. One can only hope and wonder at the possibilities of a 30-bit naming & 871 titles.

An Old Games But Still Quid On The Pot!

Mr David Charles Colford, Stamford, Lincs.

Whilst many old games have retained their appeal over time, millions more are now redundant machine code dinosaurs. Part of the reason they were designed with limited machines in mind, whilst today's games have the advantage of 30-bit processors, polygon technology and all manner of clever effects. We'd like to see some old games on the Saturn too, but the best way to do that is in the manner of home's Arcade

Classics (previews on page 6 of this IRL).

I HAD SONY

DEAN SEGA (M) RM (M)

I have had a Sony Playstation since the day of release and have enjoyed it! However I couldn't help feeling jealous when I saw Sega Rally and Virtua Cop etc when purchasing new Playstation games!

This weekend my curiosity (and the fact the price has dropped) got me and I bought a Saturn along with six titles (three being only £10 each as part of the bargain). Was I impressed? Was it a worthwhile spend? Does it compare to the Playstation? Are the games as good as the Playstation? The answer to all is YES! Sega Rally, Daytona and Virtua Cop rival anything on Playstation as does the excellent VFA - it's a wonder I love the Saturn!

Looking back, I wish I had just bought a Saturn as my poor Playstation has not been on since.

Also your magazine is miles better than the official Playstation mag. Thanks,

Mark Peters, Ayrshire, A'Wars.

PS Do Sega pay me now or later!

I'm sure Sega would love to pay you, but given that you seem to be in possession of all the money in the world already there's not much point. Still, you can't help being a speedy rich guy and it's nice to see a well-balanced letter on the old Sega/Sony argument. Glad you like the Saturn and our humble mag.



Sega Rally and Virtua Cop: two good reasons to buy a Saturn.

SEGA WORLD - AND I'VE GOT ME PASS

DEAR SAM,

In issue 7 and all your other issues I was searching through the pages of your fan mag when we saw Segaworld in another mag. I saw a Sega fan which took people to Sega's top attractions. Would this include taking people to Segaworld?

Someday, Chris is getting a Saturn (well, that's what he said anyway) and you bring the number one mag, he wanted to know what game to get afterwards. The Moon. Last but not least I am wondering what he's got up to get afterwards. Streetfighter Alpha, Kamen Rider, or Darkstalkers. Thanks for your words of wisdom.

Lee Holland, Bursley, Lancs.

Actually Sam, the Sega fan doesn't take anyone anywhere, apart from the people who work on it. It's actually a racing Sega attraction which takes games to the masses, and the other way around. Try a train for your Segaworld transportation needs. As for your games address, well we were momentarily confused by your use of "subscribers", but we understand now. So we'll say Gae and Alpha. Although there are better games than Gae, to be honest.

ICE HOCKEY IS BLOODY ACE

DEAR SAM,

I wish to make a stand for all ice hockey supporters in the UK after your blatant slur against our beloved game in issue 7 of your magazine. You stated "about as much popularity as small fish in the ocean". I know of one and a half thousand Sheffield Striders fans that turn out week in week out to watch disagree. Also you stated "two teams of five slide playing four quarters" when it is actually two teams of six slide playing three periods. So next time get your facts right before you slag off our new national game.

Neen Juddiffuly, Strider, Don's best mate.

Steven Ellis, Colford, Devon, UK. Yorks.

PS Not to mention the stadium and a half thousand that turned out to watch Manchester Storm at the Ryens Stadium.

Thrilling story, Steven and all your little blunders. Of course, that was all Ibb's fault, as the rest of us know all about ice hockey and would never make that kind of mistake. So we give him seven good strokes with the stick. And it's the national sport of Canada, not Britain.

A BEAUTIFUL PERSON WRITES

DEAR SEGA SATURN MAGAZINE,

Have just my letter as it is the first time I am writing to your awesome magazine. I am writing in response to a certain Eddie Sennan from Bristol who wrote in, in issue 6, and was having trouble getting his Bootleg Sampler CD.

Well I have two CDs, not because I bought two issues of SAM. I had a cousin who worked in Games and he gave me the Bootleg Sampler CD a week before your magazine came out. Then my brother bought the CD edition of your magazine.

So here I am with two Bootleg Sampler CDs. I was hoping you could give it to someone who might get endless fun playing it.

Neen Juddiffuly,

Sheffield, Newark, Derby.

Good grief! That said, you're the most generous reader I've ever had the pleasure to encounter. Instead of just flinging off your second CD for swears money you're giving it away for the greater good of the SAM community. Well then cheer for you, you're officially our friend. So, Eddie Sennan from Bristol, I'm afraid we've lost your address - but write in again enclosing a "phone number and we'll unite you with your charity-motivated Bootleg Sampler, courtesy of Shikhar, Oh, and please mark your envelope IT'S MY BOOTLEG SAMPLER so we don't lose your correspondence.



That's that on the left in his disc during battle. Very sad.

DANGEROUS IDEAS

DEAR SEGA SATURN MAG,

I am a faithful reader of your magazine. In issue 4 I couldn't help but notice the last letter which was talking about Sega's slow and steady take-off. I myself am a Saturn owner and a very proud one at that. I got my Saturn for my birthday and now have a green and your Bootleg Sampler (thank you kindly).

Anyway, could I Sega make a 3D graphics chip or something that will make the Saturn more powerful and

make us to play even better games, and give more quality game play (if possible), or have a 64-bit machine like the 32X. I know that I don't know anything about AM or AM. In fact I don't even know what AM stands for but if Sega want to hit the mark and kill off PlayStation then they should consider my idea (if they can be done).

Sam O'Sullivan, Rossmore, Charlton.

PS Any more news on the keyboard and disk drive for the Saturn?

Given that Sega have just abandoned the 32X, this might be such a good idea. Especially considering the fact that Saturn programmers are nowhere near exploring the limits of the Saturn technology yet - what's the point in upgrading it now? A few people have suggested this 64X option, and it seems like everyone's just a bit tired by the impending launch of the Nintendo 64 (I'll over come that), thinking that their console will suddenly become obsolete and crap. Well just remember that the Jaguar's 64-bit, and look what happened to that.

'PHONE DIXONS

DEAR SAM,

Please could you help me? I have been having some trouble with my Saturn lately. I am playing for about half an hour and then the screen starts flickering with horizontal lines and the sound occasionally disappears. What do you think is going on? Could it be my TV? I have played games on it for about five years but never had any trouble before. I disconnected everything, cleaned it, left it for a day and then tried again, but the flickering stayed. Could it even be the ETEC battery? I bought my Saturn in August last year, but the instruction manual says the battery needs replacing after a year, which isn't yet. Do you know where new batteries can be bought or else I need to get used? Do you know of anyone who has had these troubles, or am I on my own? I hope you can help. Cheers buddies.

David Anderson, Salsdon, Wilt.

Don't ask me, mate - I haven't got a clue. If it's any consolation though I had almost exactly the same trouble with my Megadrive years ago and can sympathise. You're best off calling Sega, or the shop you bought your Saturn from if you've got hardware problems, as we're rarely able to help (and it takes six months, if ever, to get around to answering letters). Sorry about that.

LIGHTS, CAMERA... NO ACTION

DEAR SAM,

Congratulations on being the best console mag ever! I should know, I buy them all. I have been a Saturn owner since August 8th, after my initial disappointment at the lack of games, I am now over the moon with joy.

I have a query. With my Saturn came a nice little booklet which showed NBA Action. Being a real basketball fan I waited in anticipation, in December Sega sent out some promotional stuff and there was another ad for NBA Action. I waited. In March my PlayStation friends began bringing me with copies of NBA Live. This week I purchased NBA Live and, you guessed it, there was another ad for NBA Action. Does it exist, when is it being released? Does anyone know the answer?

Neen Juddiffuly,

Anthony Doherty, New Cross, London.

It was on the 12 and look now, it is due for release around September Dec.

Q & A



IT'S SUPERMAG

Dear SAM,

I would like some answers from your super mag

- 1 Why do most real, govt racing games only have between three and six tracks when in the PlayStation will have a huge 17?
- 2 Any news on Bug? 2?
- 3 Will there be any football management games on the Saturn?
- 4 Have Sega any plans to make their own sim game? If not, what do you think about 'There's a Ho'?
- 5 With best sim ups and racers in abundance on the Saturn, do you think it's time for a change?
- 6 I like platformers but the ones on the Saturn are too hard except maybe Clockwork Knight. Do you think there should be some easier games on the Saturn?

Wayne Smith, Highwoods, Colchester

- 1 Depends on the detail of the tracks. 2 Yes around Christmas with two new playable characters. 3 Probably. 4 No plans. 5 It's already happening. 6 I think the difficulty level is about right.



One of the four scenarios present in Sega Rally. It's not sometimes, but it's still not so good, so there.

FIVE WEEK FANATIC

Dear SAM,

I have had a new Saturn for five weeks now and I think it's great. Could you answer a few questions please?
1 I am going to buy a new game soon (and not missing to buy). Have completed Vixy and Virtua Cop or had made and expert mode without any cheats, and found this very easy so what would you suggest for more of a challenge. Wipout, Clockwork Knight 2 Pacer

'In football you've got Gazza, in Brookside you've got Bazza, but if you want the names of those Sega games then you've got to go talk to the Mazzal' Another day, another rhyme, introducing our regular spot with Sega's man in the know, Mark Maslowicz. He's been swanning about E3 sipping champagne and waxing lyrical about the Sega titles emerging this year, now he's back to the grindstone answering your questions. So, if you want to speak to our man on the inside write to **SPY GUY, Q & A, SEGA SATURN MAGAZINE**, 30-32 FARRINGTON LANE, LONDON, E14 3AU.

Dragon 2 or other?

2 I have been playing Sega's arcade machines for three to four years now and I was wondering what machine Sega put in there? Is it an advanced version of the Saturn or a totally different system?

3 I will be going to the USA sometime soon. Can I play American CDs on my English Saturn? If I need a converter, how much are they and where are they to be found?

4 As I have found I'm at the moment I am considering buying the steering wheel for Sega rally or the video CD card or the arcade stick or another gun for VC so my friends can play without the control pad (which you find really is boring and dull). Which one would you recommend?

5 All my friends say that the games — Vixy, Vixy, Sega Rally and Virtua Cop are rubbish compared to PlayStation titles like Tekken, WWK and Destruction Derby. Is this true?

John Beaumont, Botherham, Sheffield

1 If you want challenge try Bug! 2 Different system apart from games that use STV head. 3 The games will have borders and run slower. Not really worth it. 4 Probably the gun or Arcade Race. 5 Don't be silly.

MR DORK

Dear SAM,

Can you please answer these dorky questions

- 1 Is the Saturn powerful enough to take games like Mad Dog McCree and Grime Patrol at the same quality as the Philips CDi?
- 2 With or without the 3D Peg?
- 3 If we see these any plans for these games or games of a similar sort?
- 4 I should be getting my Saturn within the next few weeks. My mum wants to know if Sega will be releasing a CD with variable games on (Quades, Conard, 4, Clueless and Games etc).
- 5 Because there are three games in The Dead biology will I cost more than other Saturn games?
- 6 And finally, when is your next playable demo CD due out? I can't wait. What games are planned?

Tony Welch, Leicester

1 Yes. 2 Without. 3 Corps Killer is out in the US but wait for Virtua Cop 2. 4 Unlikely, but another company might. 5 No. 6 Be patient my child.

EAGER GEEZER

Dear Sega Saturn Mag,

I own a Sega Saturn which I bought on the first day of release. Since then I have purchased about 15 games all of which are great apart from Victory Goal. Anyway getting straight to the point, the one thing I

really wanted on the Saturn was a good basketball game. I must admit, I have been very tempted by the PlayStation since I've noted NBA, and at one point I even thought about selling my Saturn. I know this sounds a bit drastic but I'm a desperate man!

I soon came to my senses and decided to wait and see what the Saturn comes up with. I had heard that Sega sports were developing a game called NBA Action. Apparently this was supposed to be released by Christmas last year but it's heard nothing. Please, please please can you put me out of my misery and tell me roughly when it will be released and is there a chance that it may match the PlayStation's total NBA. Thanks for your time and keep up the good work on the mag.

Ian Royston, Crowborough, East Sussex.

NBA Action was shown at the E3 and very well received. While it may not be as flashy as Total NBA, it's a far better game and comes with an NBA licence as well as all of the real players on in there. And plenty of extra too so stop bleating!

BANK HOLIDAY BLUES

Dear Sega Saturn Mag,

It's bank holiday Monday and I'm really bored so here's a few questions for you.

- 1 Since finishing my GDX for the G40 Saturn I've had withdrawal symptoms from not being able to play Doom and with the PlayStation having such a great version I was wondering when it will be released and what version it will be?
- 2 Will we see a version of Quake this year?
- 3 How much longer will we have to wait for Alien Trilogy?
- 4 I've had Wipout for a month or so now and have only managed to complete 10th in Rapid (plus an Silverstream). How do I get to play faster, the last hidden track? Do I have to come first?

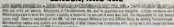
S. Martin, Heston, Newcastle Upon Tyne.

1 Around September/October and as good as PlayStation of course. 2 Hopefully 3 September/4 Yes you do.



Who's Wipout and you can play Virtua, Mission track and one of Splinterman's amazing tracks.

PAIDEMONIUM





VIRTUA COP 2

POLICE

POLICE

The sentence is Death

Guns, as we all know, are evil and should be banned. But only real guns. Not the brightly-coloured obviously pretend guns you can get for the Saturn. These, in fact, should be venerated, because they're ace. And if you're lucky enough to have one, here's the best news you'll have heard since... um... Virtua Cop.

Virtua City is in peril once again. Despite having wasted every single living criminal on planet Earth on their last outing, the

Virtua Cops aren't ready to hang up their holsters just yet. There's a new gang in town waking babies, plucking crows and knocking on doors than running away. You might not think that sounds so bad - and indeed it isn't. But this infantile mischief is merely a cover for the real action - an army of arms stragglers and armed robbers in armoured cars plotting to take over the town, having moved in from nearby Polygoncity. This time out VCPD partners Rayga and Smarty are joined by tough-talking lady cop Janet Marshall. She doesn't actually appear to do anything in the game, except maybe drive the car in the first level, but it must be nice for them to have a bit of company.

Of course, tough-talking Janet isn't the only company the cops are keeping. They're also accompanied on their adventures by a multitude of evil hoods armed with guns, knives and chandeliers. But they're not going to get any nice fancy-dress costumes sewn for them by those less salubrious companions. They're going to have to pull out their brightly-hued choppers again and commence with the slaughter. No harm, it's a dog's life as an armed copper in Virtua City.

Once again Virtua Cop 2 takes place over three levels, each set in a different locale. However, unlike the original game only one of these is within the confines of Virtua City. The second and third stages take your Cops on a luxury cruise to a mystery foreign destination, although it's something of a working vacation with plenty of shooting involved in the trip.

At the moment the Saturn cousins of the arcade exorcists are tripped on the streets of their home town, as only one level of the



Scatter these punks across the road like crisp packets and dog poo, oh Doc of Virtua City.



conversion is complete to a playable degree. This was on display at the E3 show, where onlookers were stunned smothered by its brilliance. Well, perhaps that's a slight exaggeration, but it's clear that the conversion team haven't been idling since starting work this January. In fact, when certain members of the SSAM team saw a video taken at the show it took them a while to cotton on that it wasn't the role-on-screen. The secret to Cop 2 looking so pleasant is the lovely instant mugging, which makes this game look even smoother than the last. We've been assured that the other levels will be of the same high quality. Which is fairly obvious really. It's not like you'd expect one brilliant level and then two levels filled with black-and-white stick-men with only two forms of animation.

Anyway, a more advanced demo version is winging its way to Euro shores in the near future, so you can rest assured that we'll get our hands on it as soon as it enters the country—whereupon we'll pounce wolverine-like upon it, take loads of pictures and put them in the mag like the wild savage games jounies we are. Till next month, peace keeping duties.



FREEPLAY PRESS START

The new level environments for Virtua Cop 2 provide new map location photos for your enemies to hide in.



THE LEFT-HAND PATH

Remember those old Choose Your Own Adventure books, where each page offered up to THREE incredible options of other pages to ban to to advance the plot? Nah! Well, you're lucky because they were pretty crap. You'd be better off reading a proper book to be honest. Cop 2, however, has taken a tip from Steve Jackson and Ian Livingstone's literary efforts and now offers a choice of plot direction PER LEVEL. Which is the best of both worlds, as you don't have to keep fiddling around with pages, but you do get some say over the course of the game AND it gives you more reason to play through again once you've completed every stage.

Basically, once certain episodes of the game are completed a couple of sign posts appear on screen. Which one of these you shoot with your gun dictates which route the action takes. No matter which path you select you'll begin the next level in the same place (if you last that long), but the challenges you face up until that point are totally different.



If I meet out dressed in pastel trousers and a jacket like that I'd wear a mask too.



And I'd also shoot anyone who made any comments about it, like this block does.

JAM SANDWICH PURSUIT SHOCKER!

Everyone likes a good car chase from Stansky and his pal Hutch through to new super-cops like Mel Gibson in his Lethal Weapon incarnation. Even the cast of The Bill have been known to indulge in a spot of the old flashing lights and sirens a-hoy pursuit action. Just because the Virtua Cops aren't real there's no reason they shouldn't get the chance to put pedal to the metal too. They'll be pleased to hear, then, that the very first level of their second outing has them scoot through Virtua City in the back of a fast-moving pursuit car. Luckily the players don't have to steer this vehicle, which would be a bit hard with guns, but they do have to kill the fleets of disaffiliated vandals by shooting their way heads through the windows of their transport. Some of them helpfully lean out of the car to shoot at you, presenting you with a larger target, but many remain in the confines of the motor, blasting away. And of course there are loads of poor old civilian cars caught in the melee. Try not to kill them all.





Back now are the hot reds of either crop rock bands or dangerous villains. Either way to start things up you encounter you is to start of the occupants with your bright plastic Virtua gun. No. Don't do it is not the.



SO WHAT'S NEXT?

The second and third levels of Cop 2 are well underway, but Sega are reluctant to show them off until they're playable and have their bugs ironed out. Hopefully we should have some shots of these stages in the next issue of SAM. Not that we care, though, because we've already spelled the surprise for ourselves by playing the coin-op non-stop for about a million years in the interests of research, you understand, not because we like stacking off in arcades pretending we're working or anything. Oh no. We're far too honest for that. Anyway, because we know what happens in the rest of the game and you might not, unless you're similarly inclined towards virtual violence, we thought we'd tell you a bit about what to expect in the rest of the game, and accompany this information with a few shots from the arcade original. So there are ARCADE SHOTS, right? NOT SATURN - ARCADE.

LEVEL 2

As the Cops have killed everyone in Virtua City, they decide it's time to venture to pastures new, where they'll find fresh sport for their calling skills. No how those unsuspecting denizens of the Virtua islands will run screaming as the flesh shovels down from the rooftop. Well, almost. Actually they're on the tail of some mean smuggling types who've loaded themselves into a top-which cruise liner. Lots of holiday-making passengers mean lots of Penalty Shot hazards which lose you energy. Start your way through the perp-infested cables until the ship docks.



LEVEL 3

These fleshy beings seem to congregate in the nooks of tunnels underneath their habitat, an intriguing hideout - AND ONE FROM WHICH THERE IS NO ESCAPE! Quickly blast - goes the dumb darts! Sorry, got it wrong again. Actually, the V Cops are taking some sort of sinister bomb plot, and the are taking the crooks to their sinister mission far which can only be accessed via the underground railway system. This means pepping it through a number of underground stations in a bid to track down the nefarious boss behind all of these evil shenanigans.



X-PECT THE X-TREME!



One of the big attractions at the E3 was the chance to see Sega's number one write do his stuff. That's right! Sonic is back, and in *Sonic X-Treme* he's made the leap into 3D. Now at last we can know the truth: from the front and back, is he as skinny as a sheet of paper?

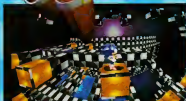
In our last issue we brought you stop press news as the new Sonic game. At the time we knew very little about it, apart from the fact that it's in 3D and would be called *Sonic X-Treme*. At the E3 in Los Angeles, Sega actually had a working demo going, showing off what you can expect from this much anticipated title. Despite the fact that there

weren't any enemies in it yet, players had the chance to get a feel of what it's going to be like controlling Sonic in a run-anywhere 3D environment. In fact, that's about all you could do, with Sonic acting more like a tourist guide, showing off some of the settings you can expect from the new game.

The team responsible for the latest Sonic installment are STI (Sega Technical Institute), and many of them have been involved in previous Sonic games. Headed by the game's producer Mike Wallis, they've been working on the game non-stop the past few months, looking to *Autism* as a potential deadline. Let's hope so!

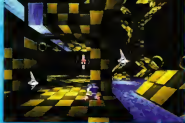
SO WHAT'S NEW?

Obviously the 3D makes quite a difference, enabling Sonic to move in absolutely any direction that takes his fancy. There are some changes as far as his moves are concerned as well. The spindash move is still there, but there's now another vaguely similar move called the spinball. This sees Sonic perform a mid-air 360° attack with his spikes jutting assertively outwards. We don't know, but we presume this kind of attack will be more lethal than the regular spin attack. Another of Sonic's new skills is the ability to throw rings rather than just collect them to protect himself. Pretty great eh?



Be a star! He's shiny! It can only be Sonic the Hedgehog, look for more in 3D!





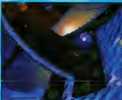
ALSO STARRING

So are there any familiar faces in there? In short, yes, largely in the shape of the ever malevolent Dr. Robotnik. This time his thirst for evil sees him after the six magical rings of Order. They are currently kept under the watchful eye of the benign Professor Gazebo Beelowski and his daughter, Tara B. However, after one failed attempt by Robotnik to steal them, Sonic steps in. Thus the plot sees Sonic hunting down the six Rings of Order, getting help along the way from the Professor and his daughter and generally doing all the things you'd expect of a superhero.

Apart from Dr. Robotnik, it looks like all the other characters will be newly created, as are all the settings taking in the likes of Jade Gully and Crystal Fresh.



Looking pretty good, he's not. Don't be more average in the next lead.



The doors in this at the 13 are pretty basic but you can be sure there's a lot more to come yet.



INTERVIEW

It wasn't only games on show at the 13, some of their creators were too, answering the questions of humble journalists and generally arriving along about looking important. One of the most important is unquestionably Mike Walls, the producer heading up the team working on Sonic X-Zone. We got a chance to speak to him and this is what he said.

EW: Could you sort of what's going to make this Sonic game different from ones in the past?

Walls: Obviously with Sonic X-Zone, 3D Sonic is free to move around but completely open 3D environment. Previously on the 2D games things were restricted to a very linear path, where as now he can run around in the open without any restrictions to his path. The 3D relative allows for new aspects to the gameplay it means that Sonic can now do things like run from a wall onto the ceiling and explore lots of new hidden areas.

EW: Can he do that anywhere?

Walls: In that sense it is going to be set up through the levels. The idea is to make specific areas 'hot spots' that will trigger off this kind of rotation, although we're still thinking about that.

EW: Are the new level characters (the going to be in there, things like collecting rings, making about really fast and all that)?

Walls: Very fast, definitely, yes.

EW: And will it have the same old level of play, like you can choose between rushing through it really quickly or take your time and search everywhere?

Walls: There are these acts and within each act we have it set so that it incorporates a certain part of the game so one part might be very fast and the other might incorporate more exploration or a lot more puzzle solving.

EW: Will there be bonus levels in the game?

Walls: Yes, there will. The gameplay in these sections will be of a similar nature, as it was in previous Sonic games.

EW: Are people who were previously involved in Sonic involved in Sonic X-Zone?

Walls: I wasn't but many people on my team, SD (Sega Technical Design) did. They worked on Sonic 3, Sonic 4 and Sonic and Sonic 4.

EW: How do you think it's going to measure up to something like Mario on the N64?

Walls: Well it's all games down to gameplay and in Sonic games this has always been very strong. I'm working with a great team and so I'm sure that we are really going to do Sonic justice.

EW: Do you think there's still a place for 2D games?

Walls: Yes I do, although with Sonic - these I think it benefits from having a 3D environment. It's a bit like Nights in that way I guess.

EW: Are you using the Sega Graphics library to create the game?

Walls: Yes.

EW: Does that make it easier to make things possible?

Walls: In some ways yes, but it also has limitations. It does with our programming so we've actually created our own 3D engine, but the demo here at the 13 is actually running with it.

EW: Do you think that there'll be new things you can do in future Sonic games on the Saturn?

Walls: In the future, possibly, but right now we're sitting everything we can do to put in this game and trying to push the boundaries to the limit.

EW: How many people do you have working on the game?

Walls: About 10 or so.

EW: Do you feel there's a lot of pressure on you as the producer of the game?

Walls: Absolutely. The whole focus is well aware of Sonic's stature and we're not going to put out anything less than what the best can do.

EW: When do you expect to have it completed?

Walls: It should be ready by September/October time.

Teenage kicks



The fiercest fighting game featuring children of the year is making the big leap to Saturn. SSM have seen the conversion running and here's where they tell you a bit about it.



Three months ago suggesting the concept of a Virtua Fighter Kids game would have had you laughed right out of town. "What on Earth have you been reading?" people would have mocked, "What kind of pretence is this you're trying to pull?" They would have scoffed. Well if you did make up something like that to impress your friends, doubtless you'll be feeling fully smugged up right now, because AAA came up with the same awesome idea, and the fruits of their fearless labour are now on their way to the Saturn. If you haven't played Virtua Fighter Kids in the arcade and feel you're missing out (which you are, because it's brilliant), fear not, because SSM have the first pictures of the home conversion, and very lovely looking indeed is it too.

Virtua Fighter Kids is one of the first products of the SSM board, that cover piece of trickery developed by Sega to bring the arcade and the home game closer together, thanks to its inherent similarity to their beautiful Saturn console. The game itself is tied inextricably to Virtua Fighter 2 (the adult edition), with the same moves and combos translated in their entirety. However, a large and undeniably healthy dose of humour has been added to the proceedings by marrying this with Super-Deformed junior characters (ie - they've got big heads and eyes and look all cute and innocent). It's the Virtua Fighter you could take home to mother. And, in case you're wondering about the morality of watching small children beat each other up, it's all in a spirit of harmless playfulness and no-one really gets hurt.

Work on VFK has been progressing at a great rate of knots - despite the large number of top-class conversions also in progress for the Saturn - as these shots attest. Whilst the version pictured is still a long way from finished it's already looking incredibly similar to its arcade daddy (although perhaps the protagonists are a little too wee for parental analogies). Sega have assured that, despite the limited availability of the coin-op over here, Virtua Fighter Kids is DEFINITELY going to receive a UK release. And, right... it's probably retail at a pocket not blinding £19.99. Final details are yet to be decided, but that's the plan. So don't come moaning to us if it doesn't work out that way.

Anyway, even if you've already got every Virtua Fighting title for the Saturn, Virtua Fighter Kids looks small enough to warrant another purchase. We look forward to telling you about it in a forthcoming review - because that means we'll have been able to play it for ages.



For a tiny little Saturn console, Virtua Fighter Kids looks very cute and sweet. But unlike their Super-Deformed arcade counterparts, these wee wee characters in the shiny metallic equipment really bloody punch. Enough for the wee wee wee wee fight. But don't want about too 'tweened out.



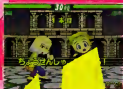


Marvel thing about Virtua Fighter. This version of an old character from Virtua Fighter 2 has extra candy thrown at him, but the little 'you look real' thing is missing from his character's dialogue. Well, I think it's being saved.



WATCH YOUR POSTURE

Martial artists are known for their showing off. This is because no one will defend them for it in case they get hurt. And, just to display the arrogance of youth, even the losers of the Kids games have a little routine to garner sympathy. Providing they're conscious (ie they lose by a Ring Out or Time Over). That's just like children that is, giving you all that doe eyes treatment so you'll give them some chocolate cake or buy them a toy. Well it won't work in VF Kids, that's for sure. No, all it'll do is encourage your opponents to kick you in all over again - possibly harder than last time. That's because the winners also have sneaky victory poses where they show off even more. As you do.



YOUTH OF TODAY

So what's all this Kids business about then? Well, as eagle-readers will no doubt have noticed, the characters in VF Kids look somewhat more cute and winsome than the usual combatants. That's because they're supposed to be children, despite the sporting of facial hair amongst these prematurely-mature members of the cast. They have, in keeping with the proportions of babies, big heads and eyes, with tiny weeny bodies. However, they also have the martial arts abilities of ninja masters five times their age, capable of pulling off all the moves from Virtua Fighter 2. Victory brings pretty flowers! The sweeties.



EASY THERE, JUNIOR

One of the new Saturn-only developments for the Kids conversion will be of particular interest to the younger readers we don't have. Still, you might have children of your own who'll care. There are plans to include a special play option for junior fighters, obviously entering into the youthful spirit of the game. This will cut the number of moves available to the characters, but also simplify the techniques required to perform those that are left. So if you're only wee or you're crap at games you'll still be able to look like a Virtua Fighter master. Not recommended for learning how to play though, as you'll have to relearn all the moves again when you graduate to the grown-up version.



**SHOWCASE****EXHUMED**

A game called **Duke Nukem** seems to be causing a bit of a storm among PC owners at the moment. The reason I mention this is that, while we can't expect to see that on the Saturn for a while, a game using the same engine is set to put in an appearance on our humble console. It's name? **Exhumed!**

Things
to do
in

Egypt

when
you're

Dead!

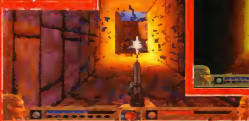
I'd had a penny for every letter and phone call we've had asking when *Doom* is coming out on the Saturn, I'd have enough money to buy a packet of crisps, a chocolate bar and refreshing F&N drink by now. That's right, about gbp10! But while I lament lost snacks, there is a chance for all those first-person perspective death and dismemberment fans to relax a bit with the arrival of BMG's *Exhumed*. This is looking every bit as impressive as the 1d legends, just as expansive, just as challenging and just as packed with enemies that make a satisfying meal of themselves when you pump a few rounds into their demonic bodies!

The theme in *Exhumed* is not exactly witch-with-a-mother-rental either; there you are, a gun-totting, sword-wielding, magic-roasting coffin breaker, wandering about the ancient tombs and towns of Egypt in search of the mummified remains of King Sarcosis. It seems an unknown force has sacked his resting place leaving only his disgruntled spirit to nag at you and offer the occasional clue as to the the mysterious forces at work among the ruins. Naturally there are plenty of ghostly mutant types out to drain your brains, be they Anubis guards (you know, the ones with the dog-head masks), giant red spiders, crows, mutant flies and the occasional gargoylean demon with too many eyes and very scary sharp claws. First!

Exhumed has already put in an appearance at the E3 in the shape of a demo disc, although being an American version it came under a different title, that of *Power Slave*. But *Exhumed* is the title that we in Blighty can expect, and a much better one it is too.

Your journey begins on the back of your trusty steed, well, camel, actually. As far as carrying weapons goes though, you have to do all that yourself because you never know when you might need them. There are a total of eight in all ranging from the standard pistol to a magical ring. As you wander about you'll find health and weapons power-ups, but more importantly you also discover artifacts and keys which help you gain access to the deepest recesses of the ancient tombs and offer clues as to the whereabouts of your chosen dead body. And that's basically it. Obviously we'll bring you all the news on further developments as we get them but for now you can at least see that with the arrival of *Exhumed*, it's not all 'Doom and gloom' really is it? Hahahah! Ahh, it's the way I talk 'em.

Exhumed



Well check out that light source! *Exhumed* is full of brilliant effects like this, so you indeed!



PYROGLIPHICS

As the player explores the different environments they gradually come into possession of different weapons. There are total of eight in all, and just for you, here they are in all their combative glory.



SWORD: The sword is what you start out with and it's actually pretty useless, although because it's simply a hand weapon you don't have to worry about replenishing ammo or anything. Use it only as a last resort.



PISTOL: The pistol is quite good for taking out smaller enemies like crows and spiders, or for blasting apart vases and candelabras. For tougher enemies you'll want to switch to a more formidable weapon.



M60 MACHINE GUN: This is where things start to get a bit more interesting. A machine gun obviously has the advantage of filling enemies with lots of bullets, one after the other. But beware using the ammo up too fast with this weapon.

GRENADE: If you've got a batch of nasty spiders huddled together why not toss in a grenade to destroy them all? Grenades are best used on the harder enemies. You can also alter the throwing distance and to take out enemies far away.

FLAMETHROWER:

Fun fun fun!

The flamethrower is the ideal weapon for burning things - probably because it throws flames. Because a flame spreads out over a wide area the flamethrower is perfect for difficult targets like flies.



COBRA STAFF: Kind of an odd weapon this. Tiny green snakes are summoned by the staff which then go slithering off to seek out targets. They then explode, showing off some lovely green light sourcing. I might add.



RING OF RA: Yes it is a sad name but a powerful magic ring all the same. Wearing this ring, a quick 'jazz like that' shake of the hand releases tiny red fireballs which bounce about and then go up in red puffs of smoke.



MANACLE: Perhaps even more toothless than the ring, the manacle is nevertheless deadly powerful. A concentrated tensing of the right hand and big pointy sheet of white lightning is released which utilizes load of energy.



In the American version known as *Panzer Blaw*, the guns will be toast down, by the German version however, (don't be too sure enemies and birds were blood. Whether it will come with a certificate is still not decided as yet. We'll let you know.





In the left is the symbol that increases the amount of health you have.



Lots of power in the dark effects show themselves off throughout Extremis. By clearing the maze you'll obtain pick-ups that improve either your health or your supply of ammo for the weapons you're using at the time. Most enemies also have pick-ups.

WHO ARE THESE GUYS?

Although BMC will be taking on the license for Extremis in America as Sega will be doing in Britain, the actual team behind the game is an admittedly hunch called Tobaccompany Software Inc. Essentially it's three blokes by the name of Paul Lange, Dave Emerson and Brian Anderson, who all worked for Nintendo of America before their previous defection. Starting out in 1993 with nothing more than a desire to make top-notch games, they now have a further 20 people teaming away in the name of Tobaccompany. If Extremis is the standard of software we can expect from them then they'll definitely be a name to watch for in the future.



As health guard explodes! Power!



Looks like back you'll find Emerson's spirit.



Why not let yourself go with the machine gun!



Here's the map to help you through the levels.

Egypt-Enemy

The copy we have been using only features five of the twenty-seven expected levels in Extremis. The developers not only plan to put in more enemies to grapple with but there's also that fact that some particular types of enemy will only be revealed in later levels. For now though, here's a look at a few of the ones we encountered:

RED SPIDER: Not exactly spiders really because they've only got six legs but they move and jump like them anyway. They tend to hang about in gangs which makes them more of a nuisance. However, a few blasts with the pistol should see them bits to mush.

CROWS: These might not be crows, but in any case they're black and fly like birds. As they soar in towards you a few well aimed rounds with the pistol are enough to make them a feathery mess.

GIANT FLY: These can be a real pain, especially when there's a swarm of them. You might want to make use of the machine gun or else the flamethrower to get rid of them. If they're in a pack though, try throwing a grenade in there.

ANUBIS GUARD: These are humans with the infamous dog masks of Anubis. Being strange supernatural types they throw blue fireballs. Tackle these from a distance if possible, using either the machine gun or pistol.

SHRE-LION: To begin with these particularly crafty types stand like innocent statues. Approach them however and they spring into life, burrowing into the ground and peeping up where you least expect them with claws blazing.

RED SPIDER



CROW



GIANT FLY



ANUBIS GUARD



SHRE-LION





Sometimes you're buried in water!



Karnak doesn't exist in the real Egypt.



DIMENSIONS OF THE STARS

No doubt all of you Egyptologists will be scratching your heads and searching through your books in search of somewhere called Karnak. Well, ancient culture befalls, you may as well put the book down now because Karnak doesn't exist, neither in ancient or modern Egypt. Despite this fact, the programmers have spent considerable time researching the styles and dimensions of Egyptian architecture and design in an effort to create a truly authentic atmosphere. So even if the town itself is fictional you can expect lots of sandstone, the coarse elegant temples and the labyrinthian tombs Egypt is famous for.



A BIT LIKE

Comparisons with Doom are inevitable and the screenshots will tell you just how similar the two games are. The main differences are thematic. Rather than entering a kind of netherworld dominated by hellish demons, you enter an Egyptian world dominated by hellish demons...ok, so it's not really that different. In fact most of the weapons are the same too, although Exhumed again stresses the Egyptian theme by including weird stuff like a cobra staff and magic ring. There are also rumours that Exhumed is faster than Doom is going to be, but obviously this is not something we can genuinely judge until Doom eventually turns up.



To your right is a screenshot of Doom on the PlayStation. The Saturn version is still being developed, but with Exhumed looking so good it's taken some of the steam out of it.



RITZY'S OR HADES?

Fancy a bit of useless information? Well, you're going to get some anyway. Anubis, the character that turns up with the dog's mask, is a genuine Egyptian god. To be precise it's not strictly a dog, more a mixture between dog and jackal. According to Egyptian myth Anubis guards souls at the gates of Hades, the place that Egyptians believed they went after death. Pharaohs and other eminent types would be buried with their treasures because it was believed they'd pass more favourably through the Gates of Hades. It's kind of like slipping a bouncer a few quid to let you into an exclusive night club. Kind of.



Big there brother and sisters, how takes up and takes good. There 'died no point in discovering life beyond the stars if you can't even look at life in your back yard, you know what I'm sayin'! We gotta get together to get it together! Oh, now people, see the Sphinx and not in the sand!

ARCHEOLOGY PSYCHOLOGY

Tomb Raider is the kind of game where progress involves going back over places you've already been, perhaps with new weapons so you can blast through walls or locked doors, and then across areas that were otherwise restricted. There are also specific items to pick up that will help you out like the Scarab bracelet which enables you to cross an area that is poisonous, or pick-ups which act as symbols of earth and health among other things. The point is to search everywhere!

There are lots of very dark and scary places in Tomb Raider, I suggest you play it with a friend, and with the lights on.



It's worth firing a few rounds into the wall now and then because Tomb Raider contains lots of secret passageways. There are also some puzzle elements that involve you having the right weapon or some kind of artifact in order for you to progress. Of course, most of it is just old' don't be discouraged as there's plenty to be happy about.

MISTY-EYED

The two essential power-ups in Tomb Raider are for your weapons and health and they look a bit like giant cloudy eyes. The bars for each of these are displayed along the bottom of the screen. Rather than the weapon power-up being general, each weapon has its own amount of ammo. What this means is that if you're about to collect a weapon power-up it will apply to the weapon you're using at that time. So before you do it's worth flicking through your arsenal to see what weapons are in most immediate need of replenishing. There are loads of places you'll find health and weapon power-ups. Floating vases and statues nearly always replenish them and often, when you destroy an enemy, they'll leave one behind as well. Collect and be merry!



IT WEARS A SEE-THROUGH MAP!

There are lots of labyrinthine tunnels and passageways in Tomb Raider. So many in fact that you could easily get lost. Thankfully though the programmers haven't forgotten to include that trusty map so you don't have to go through the embarrassing process of asking the way off passing mutants. The map is actually laid transparently over the top of the playing screen so you can chart your progress as you go.



Looks pretty damn good eh? Well we'll be letting you know just how good it is in exclusive review next month. In the meantime, be emboldened and wrangle the knowledge for eternity!

THINGS HAVE BEEN PRETTY QUIET IN THE LAST YEAR FOR **GAMES GIANT KONAMI**. IN FACT, UNTIL RECENTLY, THEY HADN'T ANNOUNCED ANY PLANS FOR **SATURN DEVELOPMENT AT ALL**. BUT THEY HAVEN'T JUST BEEN KICKING BACK **WATCHING THE FLOWERS GROW**. NOPE, THEY'VE BEEN WORKING ON A WHOLE BUNCH OF **TOP NEW SATURN TITLES**. **SAM HICKMAN** TOOK A TRIP DOWN TO THEIR CHICAGO HEADQUARTERS FOR A **SNEAK PREVIEW**.

"We don't want to release products that are inferior to our systems and better on the other. We'd rather give the consumer something different if we can't come up with the goods. But we're working on the transparency effects [for the Solsen] right now and so far our Saturn programmer hasn't come across many difficulties - we'll find a way around it!"

Producer and Designer Overkill

THAT GOTTA HURT!



Lords of the Crypt



Lords of the Crypt

"We've looked into the violence of the game a lot and I think it's a very edgy option to blame stuff like movies or games when someone goes out and commits a crime. I mean, someone goes out and kills someone after watching a Tarantino movie? That's ridiculous."

Producer and designer Overkill

SHOWCASE

Arriving at Konami's Chicago headquarters was a first in many ways. It was the first time that any Saturn projects were revealed, the first time the programmers got to talk about their hard work and most importantly, it was the first time any journalists have ever been allowed in to see the top secret R&D department. So it was a major coup that the few people ever to get a peak behind their solid, secret-encased wooden doors were UK journalists. In fact, the people on the other side of the door were even more a little bit than we were—many a nervous face peeped out from behind development lifts, anxious of the prospect of prying journalists splicing their own every aspect of their job. And, despite being allowed in to the development areas, we were not allowed to take pictures, and we didn't receive any of the programmers either, such is the nature of some of their top secret projects. If we showed you pictures, we'd probably go missing in some kind of bizarre road accident, or Konami's heavy men would show up in dark glasses outside our front door. So you'll just have to take our word for it that we were there. Anyway, the privacy reason



four UK journalists were invited up to Konami's to take an in-depth look at their top new title, Overkill. Originally destined as a UK only project, it was soon realized that the title was also perfect for the Saturn market and so of course, work on a Saturn version has begun.

TAKE OVER THE WORLD!

Before we go into the finer points of Konami's Overkill, there's a quite an interesting history behind the making of some of Konami's newer titles. Traditionally known as a Japanese company producing Japanese style games, it wasn't until recently that Konami decided to take on American developers and let them loose on their own projects. The decision to take on American talent was taken by Mr. Kojima, Konami's president in Japan. It was decided that a more western approach to gaming was needed to allow for Konami to reach all possible markets, and Konami America was set up for this. Konami ten years ago. However, it wasn't until last year that SCEC was set up—a developmentally division of Konami with specific goals to develop and publish new titles for consoles (and expanded to PC, too). This is —





From a top-down view, a lot of the levels – most of them are contained within the walls. Search everywhere.



where the Overkill team were first brought together – after many rounds of rigorous interviews from the top people already there. Today, many people are employed in their top talent research department and the aim is to steadily expand the department until it eventually grows to 200 people – something they're expecting to achieve within the next two years.

GIBLETS ALL ROUND!

Overkill is KCCC's first Saturn project and even in this early stage of development, it's fair to say that it's going to be a huge hit with Saturn owners. Taking an isometric view, as opposed to the increasingly popular first person view, Overkill is a blood and guts shoot 'em up with glibet factor as (at least) it looks a bit like the loaded, although it has to be said that it's way, way more violent – quite an achievement when you consider the flame throwing, blood spurting antics seen in Gribble's game. It's also way, way bigger than anything seen on Saturn before, with loads of levels to conquer – just one of those levels will keep you going for half an hour!

FROM HUMBLE BEGINNINGS...

One of the most enjoyable parts of Overkill is that although at first it may seem as though the only way to get through the game is to mindlessly shoot everything, there's actually quite a strong strategy element involved in the proceedings. Although each character has an array of weapons to choose from and utilities, they do run out quite rapidly and once this happens, you're left to fight with a basic knife – even your bare hands. And, if you're faced with some of the larger monsters, you're going to find yourself in a very tricky situation indeed, with a particularly gory death imminent. So, it's best to save up your weapons for the later parts of the level and use your hand weapon or fist to take out the weaker enemies at the beginning. Plus using your bare hands seems so much more brutal – the enemies will sleep at first, then as you twist the knife in again, they'll fall to the floor in a pool of blood, or, if you're really lucky, their guts may spray out on to the wall. And as if all that isn't enough, you get the added satisfaction of yanking in their entrails and leaving your bloody footprints all around the level!

"With characters like Kreeg you find yourself laughing, but if you're laughing at the fact that you're on a computer console and you're just hit some guy guy in the face or there's this guy on the floor that's shunned and you go over and beat! that's what makes the game so funny especially when you look at some of the people that come in to play the game and when they see things like that happen. They think wow! and it makes them want to play the game more."

Producer/Art Designer Overkill



All of the characters are sketched out before they're programmed into the game.



Some of these change in development, but others remain the same throughout.



DIE, MUTANT EVIL!

There's an abundance of colourful enemies throughout the levels spanning the weakest foot soldiers to huge droid/brached bosses that chase you at great speed. There's also huge brutes that beat you around the head with their bare hands, mini beasts that hurl acid balls and slagg creatures that slash with their poisonous claws. And your character doesn't simply recoil from an attack then carry on. Nope, every time he gets hit, he bleeds too!



At Overkill like this, the movement, Overkill is quite a different game.

A NEW CONTROL SYSTEM!

Overkill also has a unique control system. The directional pad is used as in any other game, to determine the character's direction, but the shooting buttons are also used in a directional way too. Four buttons are used to determine the weapon direction, and from the direction the character faces (each character can move around in any direction), he can spray the enemy at up to a 45 degree angle, making wastage of firepower much less likely, and a more precise game possible. It's similar to the Smash TV control system, if anyone remembers that!



These show necessary control system versions of the above on the left.



Here's these in the controls of the healthy effect needed!



I CAN SEE RIGHT THROUGH YOU!

One of the main features of the game involves transparency—something the developers admit is going to be a tough task on the Saturn, although the team think they're up to the job in hand. Hidden in the walls are a variety of weapons, that can only

be seen if you walk right next to the wall—they then become transparent and the secret goodies will be revealed. It's practically impossible to complete the game without searching for the extra weapons, simply because so many of them are hidden in each room. The transparency works in other ways too—for instance it will reveal a part of the level that seems impossible to get to, but will become accessible later on in the game.

There's other hidden parts to the game too—sometimes you'll have to punch the wall out to get to them, or sometimes you'll have to flick a switch to deactivate a force field or open a screen. The good thing about this is that it all adds to the incredibly dark, tense atmosphere of the game.

COMING TO A SATURN NEAR YOU...SOON!

At the moment, work on the Saturn version of *Overkill* is in its very early stages, and although it's been decided that from now on, PlayStation and Saturn projects will be developed simultaneously, at the moment the PlayStation version is much more advanced. However the programmers are certain that they can replicate the same effects on the Saturn and that the version should be out within a couple of months of the PlayStation release. We'll be updating you on its progress until then, but it's already obvious to us that this is going to be extremely well this Christmas!



If you get to those red bits in the game, it will transport you to another part of the level. Obviously, the use of doing this is so that you can kill more things in a different room.



"We chose the sometimes perspective because it meant you could see more of the playing area and also you could see an arrow go through the chest and you can see the result from behind too. It's nice to see the world from that kind of perspective, then you can see what kind of courage you're created and it gives you an opportunity to paint the world with blood and bodies."

Producer and designer: Derek Hill

WHAT'S YOUR POISON?

There's four playable characters in *Overkill*, and the way you use them is completely up to you. You can build up one character throughout the game, or you can use each character in turn, using their particular strength for a certain level. This effectively means that you have four lives, although there will be some form of save in the game—the programmers haven't decided whether it should be a password or automatic save yet.

Each of the four characters has very different abilities. There's Kreeg, an earthling amman with enhanced aggression. He's a mercenary with little time for anything other than earning his crust. He is, make no mistake, extremely violent, and likes nothing better than to blow away anyone who's not on his side.

Then there's Quigg, a lumbering sasuran with a pea for a brain, but who can perform incredible feats of strength. In fact, he prefers to kill with his bare claws rather than use a weapon.

Jendryk is an Hyrkorian assassin famous for his stealthy attacks on the enemy. In fact he's so cunning, half the time they won't even know he's there. The team is completed by Althea Timmeron, a Transhuman with a penchant for anything that burns. Naturally, she's an expert in high explosives!



"If you don't have some of that [intensity] there you have a very boring product. On the other hand you have to be very careful as games become more realistic and take more influence from movies, games become more graphic, but this product is designed for a mature audience and this should be taken into consideration when parents buy games for their kids."

Lead Marketing, Vice President: KDC



Anyway, there's nothing like doing a job properly, is there? Not a single one left.



The map on the right displays the different strategies you can take to complete the game, and the different levels to tackle.



Thanks to all of KDC, the *Overkill* development team plus Mitch Leno, Ted Markley and Jon Sloan for all their help.



GO EAST!



In addition to ploughing ahead with their own releases, Konami have signed outside development companies to create games for them too! 47 TEK are the first to be signed, and SAM HICKMAN visited their headquarters for a look at their debut Saturn title, *Kumite*

The first thing you'll notice about developers 47 TEK is that they're absolutely nuts about Martial Arts. In fact, it seems you can't work there without being involved in it one way or another - after all they do have a martial arts centre sign hung in the middle of their offices. And if you talk to anyone there about their favoured discipline, they'll go over all misty eyed or they'll start high kicking all around the desks. Most of the people that work there are either experts in their chosen field, or have taken an art up, under the experienced eye of Derek Mitchell, third dan black belt in tae kwon do, chief game designer and Konami's producer. So, it came as little surprise to me to hear that 47 TEK's debut Saturn title is a one on one fighting game encapsulating the feel of real martial arts. In fact, you won't find anything in the game which isn't a move from one of the martial arts. The title, *Kumite*, aims to replicate the feel of real martial arts and brings the world's greatest martial artists together in one tournament. The result of entering the competitive could quite possibly be fatal.



How remember kids - wozent do as the willow tree excepts the wind. And this also - he who knows naught and knows he knows naught is the enlightened one.



47 TEK are also unique in that they're basically dedicated to producing 3D fighting games. And when they say 3D, they mean it - their aim is to view a game from any angle and to be able to play the game from any angle too. They're the only company we know of that have decided to pursue only one type of game, and this should stand them in good stead for future titles.



DISCOVER THE TRUE MASTER

At the moment, only two of the fighters have been programmed into *Kumite*, and development on those two characters is still in its early stages. However, what's already apparent is that the two contestants have very different fighting skills. Karimbo, the defending champion, prefers the kung fu style *Hu rima a Silat*, while Navajo Indian, Marshall, prefers Capoeira, a close quarters martial art. Both have entered the competition for very different reasons, but essentially, their aim is to win the tournament for the chance to fight and train with the ultimate martial artist, Master Lo. As with all the characters, team 47 are aiming to program in real martial arts moves that are played in a spontaneous way - so you can change directions in the middle of movements, or string combos together then change them at the last minute - just like in real life. And as the game should be 3D, you'll be able to side-step or backwards dodge your opponent in 3D space, giving the game much more realism than *IKQ* or *Streetfighter Alpha*.

As we mentioned, *Kumite* is still incredibly early in development, but with such a large team working on the project, it's likely that progress on the title will be storming ahead over the next couple of months. With any luck, we'll be bringing you an update on the game within the next couple of issues!



BEEN AROUND THE WORLD

47 TEK are quite odd as far as development companies go (and that's saying something considering the usual array of oddballs that tend to be employed in the computer game business). In addition to their martial arts obsessed San Francisco base, they work in conjunction with their Chinese counterparts, who are based in Taipei. The two companies work on one project at the same time, via the Information superhighway. So, when one branch is finishing up for the day, the other is just starting - by putting the day's work on a huge network between the two companies, one team can begin when the other left off. This means that for *Kumite* there's around 60 people employed on the game and development is taking place 24 hours a day - so in all, there's much more development time crammed into one game than some other teams can manage.



[illegible]



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Exclusive **FIRST LOOK** At Saturn Fighting Vipers!!

Snake Eyes

Sometimes it's easy to forget just how many **amazing Sega coin-ops** are around at any one time. Their **latest beat 'em up success** is just around the corner for Saturn owners. We got these shots through **just before going to press** and just had to get them in the mag.

In the midst of the current frenzy surrounding the news of *Virtual Fighter Kids* and *Senki Fighter* – both as coin-ops and the revelation both are on their way to the Saturn – it seems that we've forgotten that *Fighting Vipers* ever even existed. But it does, and it's absolutely great. We'd know as well, because we've played it loads in the arcade around the corner from work, and as a result we're now absolutely thrilled to see the latest pics of the 3D-BIT home conversion of one of our favourite Sega titles. We're not just saying that, either. We mean it from the bottom of our giant shared heart which we keep in a tank of formaldehyde. We'll show little workaholic beavers over at Sega have been slaving over a hot computer for the best part of this year midwifing the *Fighting Vipers* console invasion.

If for one second you doubt our passionate affection for this game, may we beg you to peruse the shots spread across these pages. All of them come from the official Saturn work in progress version, which Sega have kindly allowed us to get a butcher's at, because they knew it would make us happy in a similar frenzy of benevolence we're now letting you, our beloved reader ship, have a good gawp for much the same reason. Because we think it'll make you happy, and that's what's important.



FIRST PLAYABLE VERSION UNVEILED!

The shots seen on these pages come from the very first playable demo of *Fighting Vipers* on Saturn. The conversion kicked off in the first quarter of this year, and Sega are still confident they can hit their target of a European release in October. The advanced version pictured is on display

at this month's Tokyo Toy Show, and will be the Japanese press' first look at the game in the flesh. Copies of the demo should hit Sega in this country shortly afterwards. As always, there are rumours of plenty of Saturn-only options, although none are confirmed as yet, but Sega Europe are wearing blind that UK *Fighting Vipers* will run in full-screen mode and at full speed. And we believe them.





SHOWCASE



GET ON THE SNAKE

If you're not familiar with Fighting Vipers you obviously haven't been inside an arcade for some time. Made, like Last Bronx, as a kind of off-shoot from the Virtua Fighter series, Fighting Vipers features some outlandish and generally smart characters engaged in a spot of single combat. Picky is everyone's favourite - he's this little kid on a skateboard with some of the coolest moves seen in any beat 'em up. However, all the other participants are of roughly equal skill and power - although their fighting style and tactics vary wildly. It was originally thought Fighting Vipers was being developed as a kind of Junior Virtua Fighter for younger players, but this rumour was proved more than unfounded when players actually had a go and experienced the depth and frenzied pace of the final game. After the spectacular job Sega did on Virtua Fighter 2 we're especially looking forward to Fighting Vipers here at SSM.

DODGE VIPERS

Like every other game on the face of the planet these days, Fighting Vipers has a bit of a gimmicky twist to it to get players interested. However, unusual though this may sound, it's nothing daft or superficial. Each fighter in Vipers starts the bout fully swathed in armoured clothing. The efficiency of this armour varies from character to character, but all areas of all combatants start out protected. However, as each riposte takes more and more damage the armour wears down, until bit of it area eventually smashed right off the player's vertical body, leaving areas about your person more vulnerable to damage. Obviously, Saturn PC would look a bit silly without this element, so you should be glad to learn that it will appear in its entirety, although we're unsure as to whether discarded items of armour will remain cluttering up the floor of the combat arena. This graphical foible, of course, may be sacrificed for faster processing speed.

That looks like Dan (left), who works for SSM.



And that looks like Rick (right), who did too.



And that looks like the new officers.



Although it's the SSM Fighting game! (Moral)





To be *this* good takes



AGES

Believe it or not, the ancient 8-bit Master System wasn't Sega's first hardware leap into the front rooms of the world. Prevalent as they are in this climate of cutting-edge cyber-technology, Sega have been hanging around peoples' houses since 1983, when they pioneered the Turbo Drive Module. This sounds like some kind of NASA space engine, but was in fact a steering wheel concept peripheral for the CBS ColecoVision console.

It featured a wheel mounted on a "MidiBoard", along with a ColecoVision hand controller to act as a gas/brake and a cute little accelerator foot pedal. One competitive game (Turbo Drive) was provided with the unit, and Coleco promised more to follow. They didn't.

Having had their fingers (and possibly toes) burnt by the Turbo, Sega retreated to the more familiar territory of making games for the arcade and handling conversions of all their major titles to every console on the market at the time. And what consoles they were - behemoths such as the Atari VCS and Intellivision, along with the new wave of home computers, machines with keyboards that wary parents preferred for their "educational" value (like anyone ever bothered programming them). It wasn't until '83 that Sega returned to this home flag, riding a wave of popular arcade games (including Enduro Racer and OutRun) but others still a whole generation of 2-BT Sega classics (yes, don't mind, made back when computer games were sold a new penny) later when any game that had more than one screen of action was an instant legend. Manikind had no more their like before or (thankfully) since.



THE COLECO YEARS

Sega, like other arcade developers of the period, games wilderness, made quite a decent impact on the ColecoVision crowd. Most of their coin-op found an eager home audience on the CBS machine, sold in cardboard boxes featuring the tag line "JUST LIKE THE REAL ARCADE GAME!". Not too difficult in these days, admittedly. Although this aphorism was blarney missing from the cover of one subversive videogame alien-invasion cart Subter. Perhaps that's because it was *it's* just like the arcade game. In fact, it's simplistic slot-line gunfight gameplay was pretty limited, even though the graphics weren't bad. However, games like Zaxxon, Space Fury and Carnival were ace. Carnival was one of the last flight-on games ever, placing you in a fairground shooting at rabbits, ducks, owls and dancing bears. Carnival would never be loved here these days. Space Fury was slightly more agreeable to the fur-coveting players - it was a kind of Asteroids

clone where players shot flying bits of machinery



Yes, they don't make them like this anymore - but terribly sad.



before they were able to join together into space ships and shoot you down. None of these titles may look like much today, and indeed they aren't, but back then they were the dog's knees.



TAPPER

In the days before Mortal Kombat and Doom parents and censors were far more sensitive about the "family" nature of games, Tapper, an oft forgotten slice of excellence, cast the player as a fat, wearily-mouthed barman serving thirsty customers big floating pins of... errr, soda pop. Here in Behind this thinly-veiled premise lay a frenetic race against time as Tapper can to the soda fountain, filled up empty glasses and slid them along tables to the waiting (and impatient) customers. Like most games of its age (1982) Tapper was simple in concept played on single static screen, but it was ace.





ZAXXON

Zaxxon is the stuff of which reputations are made: it was a breakthrough shoot 'em up played in 3D isometric perspective—a totally new concept back then. The combination of screen depth and altitude controlled enemies played, and it quickly became one of the most popular arcade titles going. Zaxxon conversions reached just about every machine going, from the Atari to the Commodore 64, and the forthcoming Saturn title Viewpoint bears a startling resemblance, in case you're not in graphical quality luckily.



Guess, I'm from the follow-up, Super Zaxxon.

FEATURE

SPY HUNTER

Ask any old old gamesplayer like ourselves what Sega's best game ever is and the answer will always be the same—Virtua Fighter 3. If you'd have asked us the same question ten years ago however, we would have said "Why Spy Hunter? Of course—the amazing high-speed shoot 'em up where you control a transforming sports

car/speed boat armed with missiles, machine guns, smoke screens and oil slicks, where you, the player, must blast through numerous missions laden with evil enemy cars, boats and helicopters—it's just the best game in the whole world!" Which it was.



THE NAMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'

The Sega logo is one of the most familiar in game ingdom. But it wasn't always that way. Well, it sort of was, but it has changed over the years. It started out all skinny and Seventies looking, in the mid-Eighties it changed to the fatter block script we're used to today, but it wasn't until the end of the decade that they added the binding outline with surrounds the script now.



FROGGER

Everyone knows about Frogger, even your dad. Next to Space Invaders it's probably the most famous game in history. Guide your frogs back to their lil' pads, avoiding cars and trucks on the road, drowning and crocodiles in the river and... nothing else. Alright, so it sounds rubbish now, but by playing it, it's dead hard, and thanks to the titchy



time limit it's constant living-on-your-nerves experience. The graphics were so great the Atari instruction book had to describe what everything was, eg "The red circles that float on the river are turtles." The complexity level is demonstrated by the end of Game panel in the same booklet. "The game ends when no frogs are left."

FROGGER



CARNIVAL

JUST LIKE THE REAL ARCADE GAME

SCORE 014250



RETRO CLASSICS

Judging by the letters we've received at SGM there are loads of people out there gaggling to get their hands on knocking-on-a-bit Sega arcade conversions. The three on their way to the Saturn right now are the famous Space Harrier, Afterburner and OutRun. In their day these were masterpiece. For starters, they all had novelty moving cabinets—people would travel literally hand red of yards to seek out the full monty high-wild. Person replica OutRun silver cabinet, let alone the turn-you-upside-down Afterburner machine. Sadly these add-ons are unavailable for the Saturn as yet, but the playability remains awesome. Yeah yeah, you may scoff, but without Harrier there'd be no Panzer Dragoon, and Sega Rally doesn't even have as many courses as the fabulous OutRun (which also allows you to choose your route through the game at each checkpoint).



Most of the games in this feature were from out of Dave Kohler's own collection, but the rest were supplied by M.J. Yates who runs a mail order service for old games (info: 950 98113) and Jason Moore who produces a Gazette called RETROGAMES (info: 225 86112).



SHOWCASE

SPACE HULK



HULKA HULKA BURNIN' LOVE



SPACE HULK

Only one thing beats a bit of **alien blasting**, and that's loads more **alien blasting**. **Space Hulk** has got alien blasting coming out of its armoured little ears, and it wants **THEE** to experience the full delights. Come fly with us into space as RAD proffers the low-down on the **GORE MARATHON...**



HI readen, Trevor Arkhamonylum here, but you can call me "Dick". Everyone else does. The kind SGM staff have asked me in to explain the fascinating hobby of "simulating games". Now you may scoff about RPGs (as we like to call them) being for lonely sadbores— but you *would* other people to play them with. Not like your computer games, where you just sit in your bedroom on your own playing against no-one and writing down your highscores in little books and giving your creations little pet names like "Baweykins". Ha. No, you need friends to play RPGs, you can't play them by yourself. Unless you take both sides in wargame ones, but that's not cool because the lack of the dice means you can never predict the outcome of your own strategies, actually. Not that I'd know of course. I've got lots of friends. Anyway, the reason I'm here is to explain the evils of *Games Workshop's* *Space Hulk*, so you can better understand the new computer game based around its "mythos". They had to make it into a computer game, because you lot probably can't understand proper rules like RPGs have got. In fact, you probably can't even read this. Ah ha ah ha. So without further ado, and speaking slowly and loudly so you can understand me, as with the Irons.



>> Space Hulk is set in the year 2030/698, when man has made his glorious conquest of the stars. Now the Earth is ruled by seventeen "houses" of power, each of which is divided into twenty-two "sechs", each of which governs forty-one "member states". Each of these member states employs armies of Imperial Marines (there's only one Emperor, though - he's Claudius Nero Prohibito II, the Mad Monk of Lucretia, he's only got one eye and he went mad after witnessing a dog being born when he was three). He rules the galaxy with a dead fist, and all the Marine armies have different names. My favourite is the Grizzle Angels, because they've got nice white uniforms, with black, red and yellow trim. Their commander is Sargon III.

Anyway, as well as all the Imperial forces there's this rebel army called the Scabbers Troop who are commanded by David Hasselhoff BOOOO. They're not in the game, but you need to understand the political intricacies of their Angling Rights Tribunal to know what's going on... waffle waffle blah [Edited by SSM for reasons of sanity preservation]

And then there's these aliens called Genestealers, and they're trying to destroy humanity. There's this big space ship full of them hurtling towards your home planet of Doctor II. You and your Marine buddies have to run around the giant Leviathan Class space cruiser and kill them all before they land and devour everyone. I know that might sound a bit complex, but you could at least try to understand.

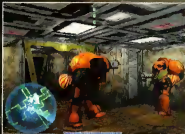


This here is one of those Genestealers in an earth-shattering close-up. See, he's obviously in pain. Or perhaps it's a sin. Anyway, your job is to kill all of these buggers. So stop to it, you terrible little man.



HI SIR, WE'RE YOUR PALS!

You are not alone. Michael Jackson said that in a song, and some aliens said something like that in Close Encounters of the Third Kind. Now we're saying it about Space Hulk which, despite the fact of a two-player option, still provides company for your Marine Commander. A squad of Terminator Marines accompany you on each mission, but whilst they're extremely rock hard they're also a bit thick. Which is why they need YOU to tell them what to do, seeing as god-tier and instruct your troops correctly is the first rule for success in Space Hulk, which relies as much on strategy as blasting. Alas! There's still loads of blasting, but you have to know how to minimise the odds against you by properly deploying your forces. This is probably the trickiest bit of the game to get into, but it's one of the most rewarding when you know what you're doing.



There are friendly Terminator Marines, but don't they look absolutely gorgeous? If you see them down the youth club you'd certainly bag them a couple of drinks. Or maybe a few puns.

I WANT TO DRINK YOUR GENES!

You might think "We're all the same under the skin, how come we can't just sit down with the Genestealers, have a couple of drinks and sort this out without recourse to shotgun and chainsaw?" Well there's a traditional Genestealer baited which explains it all quite succinctly, as we shall demonstrate.

"Oh alien, alien, won't you marry me with your mandibles, claws and dreams!"

Oh no sweet maid, I cannot marry thee, for I have no genes of my own. So I must wander the galaxies marauding and slaughtering in order to graft myself with fearful alienwardens. Thus I shall become a terrifying and grotesque assumption of both our forms.

Gen.

So off she went to her grandfather's chest and brought him some genes of the very best etc etc.

You see, these Genestealers are vile and evil and kill for fun and profit. The only way you'll settle this like gentlemen is by settling it the aggressive gentleman armed with big laser cannons and sharp pickers. So, to aid you in your quest to kill, here's a little rundown of what you can expect from your enemies.

GENESTEALERS: These are the full-on, unconstructed alien menace from hell. They've got four arms, two of which are the forearms. All their arms are armed with sharp head-gauging claws, tiny versions of which are replicated in their heads and are known as "teeth". They are fast, ugly and very hard to kill.

GENESTEALER HYBRIDS: These are Genestealers that have stolen some genes. The particular ones you find in Space Hulk have nicked human DNA, so look slightly more approachable. But still purple, and loaded with claws. These ones aren't quite so ferocious and angry, but they are smarter and may even outwit you.

BLOKS: These blokes are Marines who have turned to the evil Choco (a bit like the Dark Side of the Force) and are under the command of David Hasselhoff BOOOO. You can tell they're not your own troops because they're not wearing their full armour. They must be killed.



YOU'LL NEVER LEARN

Someone once said that experience is the best teacher. Most likely several smart-arses have since used this as an excuse when caught skipping Chemistry lessons to foment potent homemade Well Imperial! Mannies know the true wisdom of this aphorism. As they fight they learn more about both scrapping and their opponents' abilities. This generates Experience Points—like in a proper RPG but without all the paperwork. As you Mannies earn more experience they get better in combat, especially in close-up hand-to-claw situations. Which means there's nothing to be gained from hanging around the back the whole time, you coward.



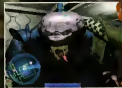
INSTANT DESTROYER AND KILLER

One of the reasons Space Hulk is so popular with the anaemic male-like people who seem to play "combat strategy" RPGs is that it has a huge arsenal. That's not like a big football team towering monolithically over the world, it means loads of different guns. Which should also endear it to bloodthirsty video gamers too. Before each mission you're able to tool up from a selection of heavy duty arms, from Bolt Throwers (machine gun things) through flame throwers to chain saws, each of which has its own advantages and ammo requirements. There's strategy inherent in this too, as chainaws are useless at long range, and a grenade launcher is no good when a Genestealer is chewing on your nose.



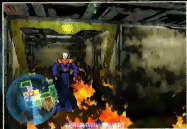
I SHALL CURE THEE

The good thing about the future is that technology can do everything. Now if you're one of those Lucille types afraid of electric lighting then this might sound like a recipe for total redundancy at the hospital also leading to our extinction. But those kooky Imperial Mannies would disagree, because that same technology happens to be saving their hides. Not only does their ultra-thick cybernetic armour protect them from bits of damage, it also repairs and refuels bits of devastating attacks, given enough time. And this is the beauty of the unit is not under attack, slowly healing the damage and the outfit itself. So try to find a quiet spot, away from the firefight and lick your wounds. Not literally, of course, as you'll get a horrible metal taste in your mouth.



FREEZE, GODDAMN SUCKER

When Alamy Pagnier first developed Tetris and went off for a cap of tea, he noticed something—he could just look at his paused game and work out where to place the next shape without worrying about time. "Right," he thought "I'll sort that out", so he made the screen go blank when the game's paused to stop himself cheating. Space Hulk, having a strategy element, time limit and extreme combat situations, does something similar. However, just to be fair on slow-witted gamers such as the S&M team, there is a function known as Freeze Time. This allows you to halt the game for a bit of a think without losing your knowledge of what's actually happening. So, you're only granted a limited quantity of Freeze Time per game, so use it wisely. Not when you're going to the loo.



CLASSIC BATTLE MODE TOO!

Well, it's not exactly tidy thing. You'll reckon there wouldn't be that much to it—loop it, shoot a few people, plant some flags and booby! (dawn and eggs for breakfast. Well that's where you're wrong. It's a long, protracted and messy business is war. Space Hulk, being based around a war against aliens, upholds this tradition by having gallons of gore and a lot of minutiae. Actually, not millions, we just said that because it's alliterative and sounds nice. But there are loads. You start the game in the training missions, which are fairly easy and just show you're got used to the controls and the whole segments of positioning your troops and so on. Then comes the Campaign itself, where you and your squad tackle the real threat, and there's certainly nothing easy in that! If you're really really hot you can graduate to the Paradox Warriors missions, classic spacewar from the Space Hulk RPG which are notoriously work hard. You wouldn't believe how much work this game takes to complete.

SPACE HULK WILL BE REVIEWED IN NEXT MONTH'S ISSUE

NIGHT On Earth



NIGHTS is the game of everyone's dreams in more ways than one. Once again **SATURN MAGAZINE** has the inside news on its development...

B Every three months ago we didn't even know about the existence of **NIGHTS** and now here we are with our third Showcase on the merry little blighter and his spectacular-looking game. Excitement about **NIGHTS** is building to fever pitch amongst Sega players across the globe, and quite rightly, because it's sure to be a stunner. In true TSM tradition we've got hold of some more pictures, along with more information wrenched straight from the clutched mouth of Sega of Japan. The rapid speed of progress reported last month has been maintained, and the team are confidently expecting to meet their originally stated launch date. Thanks to the Herculean endeavours of the programmers there's plenty new to see this month, from new character abilities to fresh levels. So stop reading this bit and have a look at the pictures. >>>



LEFT: NIGHTS is his tokusogan hero, ready for a quick dash down the house-painted by steps run of his lovely game.



All this talk of adventures in dreamworlds is likely to go to sleep and experience it all for yourself.



NIGHTS is a little fellow, spending all of his days selecting only the best of the best. What I could do that.



I wish I could do that too... the best!



It's not just the best of the best, it's the best of the best... the best of the best... the best of the best...

KNOW THE DRILL

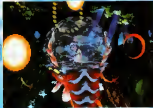
In the earlier versions of **NIGHTS** we saw the juvenile protagonists were ill equipped to deal with the Nightmare hazards awaiting them. That's partially because the Nightmare hazards were awaiting a long way away having not been invented yet, and also because the authors hadn't programmed their full capabilities. Well we're not sure if **Claris** and **Eliot** are quite finished, but they do now have an attack. It's tentatively titled the Drill Dash, and it's fairly easy to guess how it works. Push the right button and your bloke (or blokes!) performs a turbo poussette, speeding forward into foes and bashing them out of your dreams. **NIGHTS** has picked up a new skill too. We can now destroy enemies more quickly by grabbing onto them and looping around, using his opponent as a lever. This saves performing a whole big Paraloop (the new official name for the fly-in-a-circle-and-open-up-a-scorer attack detailed in issue 1).

LAST TRAIN TO TRANSLUCENT

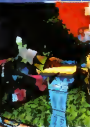
All those doubters who said that the Saturn can't handle proper translucencies can just go and bully Neil Hart their hats, because NIGHTS shows that this lovely effect is fully within the reach of the Sega machine. Don't believe us? We'll check out the shafts of sunlight leaking through the trees in these shots. Does that look all pixelly and blocky to you? No it doesn't. And anyone who says different is a liar. Of course, this isn't the only innovative graphical effect visible in NIGHTS, but it's certainly one Saturn owners will be pleased to see at last.



CAUTION! Some language used by these clever architects, obviously in an attempt to find more than working bonuses.
 CAUTION! (LEFT) NIGHTS, himself as a bit of a bonus trail, attempts an ascent course designed to test the player's flying prowess. A bit like a driving test.



If NIGHTS doesn't pull out of that dive he'll hurt his nose on the floor. If he had a nose. Which he hasn't.



Remember, NIGHTS possesses a brilliant, sophisticated, and totally unique design. The location of bonus-collecting parcels of the whole NIGHTS is actually under the control of the player's wings, not mere buttons.



UP THE WOODEN HILL TO SLEDFORDSHIRE

One element of the game we sadly don't have any shots of is the Robbed Bonus. This sub-game comes into effect at the end of Elliot's Frodo Ball level (detailed elsewhere) and possibly in other unknown parts of NIGHTS. The viewpoint slides behind NIGHTS himself, who lies face down on an icy slope and bombs it down at high speed, collecting bonuses on his way. We'll have more Robbed information and pics (hopefully) next month.



TURNAROUND... NAAAH

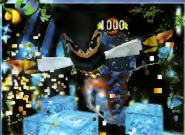
The kids have obviously been working out, because they've become far more agile since we last met them. Along with their new-found attacking capabilities they've also found a way of changing direction more effectively, although only when in NIGHTS form. As NIGHTS dashes past a large object, such as a boss, a touch of a button has them reach out their arm, grab the item and twist around it without losing speed.



NIGHTS flying around the Frost Bell, and it looks like he's just with a pretty awesome. Isn't that sweet? I'm looking forward to Christmas. Now I get lots of presents.

JUST LOOK AROUND

We thought we'd seen the extent of NIGHTS' camera play by last month, but it transpires we were mistaken - NIGHTS is set to have more view points than Anne Robinson's postbag! It's now known that certain sections of certain levels use a top-down view, and the close-up facility has been expanded (or narrowed, technically) to zoom right in on the action. You can even watch things from right in front of your character's face, as shown by these detail-rich pictures. It's absolutely awesome.





SHOWCASE



SPRING VALLEY: The Ideal

They say: The world of hills, with greens and waters. It is a beautiful world, shaped from the image of Clark's ideal, her father. There are lots of brooks and waterfalls from the melting snow. There are also steep rocky slopes, giving added beauty of the nature. Feel the wind that breezes through the mountains, and learn the flights of the NIGHTS.

We say: This is a Clark level we've already seen, and very nice it looks too. Very pretty indeed.



FROZEN BELL: The Consciousness

They say: The world of hills, covered with snow. It is the world shaped from Elrot's consciousness deep inside. Climb up and slide down the steep slopes of the snow-covered mountain. There is a babble at the end for you to slide down.

We say: This level will be familiar to anyone who's read our previous NIGHTS Showcase, but new features – such as igloos and snow bells – are now in place.

MYSTIC FOREST: The Possibility

They say: A world, created from the fusion of quiet forest with street signs, covered in dense mist. It is a world that is created by Clark's subconscious to her spirit of inquiry. It has many locations with mystic sensation, such as Ruins deep in the forest, mist that occasionally covers the spire, and swamp that will pull anyone that gets lost. They say that there is a beautiful cavern deep underground...

We say: This level features the terrifically-named forest of Maze (sure to change) and the Swamp of Temptation. It also contains the first top-down section, gorgeously translucent mist and lots of secret switches and hidden bits.



The power we got to the launch of NIGHTS the more of this we can reach we get to see. This picture is quite scary. I hope Clark doesn't fall!



NEW PAD SHOCK!

This is Sega's new NIGHTS pad. It's got a weird second D-pad above the regular one. Players flick between them with the switch at the bottom, to control NIGHTS and the kids better. More on this next month, dudes.



**MEAN
MACHINES
SEGA**



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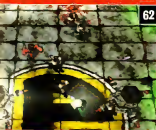
Review Index

Call forth the lightning axe! Let us gather in vast stadiums about the world! Let our fists stridently punch the air in unison! For we are one and this is Rock!

Arrggghh! Someone turn that Loaded music down! It's messing with my head. And so are all those splattered bodies and guns and strange cross-dressing maniacs. Oh well, that's modern life I suppose, and the main review as a matter of fact. As for the rest of the reviews, it's a bit of a mixed bag. In fact, you can see for yourself over the next twenty pages. Enjoy!



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BY	GREMLIN
PRICE	\$44.99
TYPE	MASS DESTRUCTION
RELEASE	JULY

Life in the Big House isn't all Ronnie Barker and grouting a snout, that's for sure. See what really happens on the inside (in an alternative future) with Gremlin's Jailbreak Rock...



It's a really good job the Sun hasn't noticed that Loaded is still yet, because otherwise there'd be trouble. The problem isn't it's a bit of a give-away, it's the content of the game—take control of a heavily armed psychopath and have them blast their way out of a high-security prison, killing everyone from the guards to equally disturbed inmates in their pathetic, pathetic explosions and blood-crazed. Of course, as game players

we know there's nothing wrong with a bit of violent brutality—it's stress-relieving, it gives you an insight into psychopathy etc.—but Loaded is actually the most existentially rewarding title we've got. As each of your foes is destroyed, their bloody remains are left plastered to the floor. Once you've killed just about everything in a level and are wandering around looking for the exit, you're confronted with the shocking results of your actions. The sensation of guilt provoked by gazing at the charred corpses of innocents died by your own hands has profound redemptive qualities, surely meaning no player of Loaded would ever commit an atrocious crime ever. And anyway, you're supposed to be over 18 to play it.

As you might have surmised by this point, Loaded is an action game. It's a sort of cross between Doom and ancient Alan Con as Gaurilet. The proceedings are viewed from an isometric/nearly top-down perspective, and your job is simply to guide your chosen protagonist through the various maze-like levels of chokey blinding everyone to bits and searching for the exit. A confrontation with the gargantuan prison overlord awaits at the end and signifies the termination of your porridge. And that's it.

So you'd think Loaded is just a simplistic blast-a-bomb with none of the subtlety demanded by today's gamers, and you'd be half right. There really isn't much to feed your brain in Loaded, but there's plenty of killing and mayhem, and your reactions are in for a sore testing at the multifarious hands of the prison inmates' warring laser outposts, bores and other terrors. Your eyes are also in for a sore test and thanks to the "atmospheric" use of lighting which drowns most of the game into near total darkness, only illuminated by muzzle flashes and explosions.

There aren't many games on the Saturn which have this much emphasis on straight ahead killing without the added hippy of all. New Next Generation effects. Sure, Loaded has its fair share of 3D RT beads and broken bits of its heart it's a non-stop kill for thrills blaster and a pretty big bang for the buck.

However, I can't get Loaded a blast of recommendation for every player because Loaded will find its fans, mostly among the hardcore shoot 'em up enthusiasts more concerned with body count than balanced progression. For those Loaded is well programmed, has got a controls an extensive selection of characters and a solid, well-put one level secretly much the same as another. Sure, it's a wonder as you progress and more enemy elements are introduced, but the games remain fairly consistent throughout. This makes it a good choice for a more casual player, and a good game to have in the market for an addition. Comparing high mobility bullet hell though Loaded should quench your blood lust.

R A D



There's no way to get through heavy doors without a pass. Not even with big nukes.



Car's Hairs serves the carriage to has wrecked upon countless innocent guards, and portrays the ferocity of such slaughter.

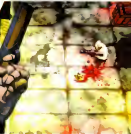
LOADED



(LEFT) Oh no, there's nothing violent about Loaded. Nope. No, he's just had an accident with the knife. That's all. Nothing gory.



A number of critics never declare having a go because they think they're hard enough.



EVERYONE MUST BE KILLED

Roads from the power needed to move those hundreds of tonnes, aimed at the same time, you might not think that there's anything that home-swinging in Loaded. However, in addition to their new weapons, each Loaded type has a super special weapon up their sleeve. Oh, the primary purpose of these little devices just about every thing is a large one, but there is a sinister, nefarious subtext too – to show off. The graphical effects used in these types of attacks are pretty impressive, even given the fact that they're just little things floating around in the air. The best-looking one, however, has to be the character's knife, which makes the entire game much more fun.



A simple and brutal classic of violence is the same vein as a pick-axe handle to the head.

graphics	88	overall 84%
sound	82	
playability	89	
value	80	



BY	EA
PRICE	£79.95
STYLE	RACING
RELEASE	JULY

Already doing the rounds on 3DO and PlayStation, **The Need For Speed**, arrives on the Saturn looking to **make up some mileage** on the likes of Daytona and Sega Rally. But despite some exciting moments, and a **spectacular crash** now and then, it doesn't look like **overtaking**.

When you hit 17 one thing in particular becomes a priority — getting a car in order to embark on a more mature pose technique. Now at last, you're in a position you always used to envy: No more heartbreak at being dumped by your girlfriend for that guy with the Vauxhall Nova, because now that's you! Or at least it would be if you didn't have to go through the irritating business of learning to drive in the first place, or having to take a test with an instructor that looks like a long-suffering graying maniac. In fact, when you do finally learn to drive you quickly come to realize that it's often more better than it's worth. I suppose that's why racing sims are so popular, plenty of thrills and no paying for petrol or speeding tickets. Even the crashes leave you with limbs still intact and functioning. The one thing it won't do of course is win you the favour of your fifth-form sweetheart.

The Need For Speed might have been considered ultra realistic a couple of years ago but, with the arrival of Sega Rally and a new Daytona game in the pipeline, it's already falling behind in the graphics and animation departments, even though these attributes are quite respectable. One of the game's boasts when it appeared on the 3DO was that it managed to simulate driving more accurately than any other

game. This isn't altogether an idle boast either. As well as including ten very fast real-life automobiles like the Porsche 911, the Lamborghini Diablo etc. The Need For Speed includes lots of stats on each model, pointing out all that confusing stuff like how many horses it races like, rates of acceleration, top speeds and so on. This isn't useless info either, each car driving as its statistics suggest, and handling in a fashion that's unlike any other Saturn driving

game. The problem is that such dedication to realism actually works against it. It feels a little too much like driving which is pretty mundane unless you're zooming around a grand prix circuit or taking to tiny brazen lanes in a rally car. In trying to keep both the serious driving enthusiast and the lover of manic speed happy, it winds up somewhere in the middle: a lukewarm attempt at both of them.

Among the more exciting elements in The Need For Speed are the crashes which occur with some frequency, especially when you're doing it simply for the thrill. The reason there are so many is because in head to head mode you race while all the regular drivers are out going about their daily business. This also entails avoiding traffic cops who'll pull you up if they can catch you and promptly hand over a speeding ticket. Elements like this give The Need For Speed a mile high hearted edge, akin in some ways to Road Rash. If this was expanded on it would stand out as quite a unique racing game. As it is, the serious racing sim persona has its up and demands you respect each car's unique handling characteristics and be sensible by driving the right way all the time.

So does it satisfy your need for speed? In fits and starts, yes, aided by the chance to take part in some spectacular crashes. Overall though, this game rarely moves out of the middle lane.

R.D.



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REVIEW



THE NEED FOR SPEED

This is the fastest you'll find on the coastal road. There are lots of different types of terrain in the game, from the empty coastal city seen in lovely weather runs in the forest. Miss



key there! This is the in the driving seat view. There are four in all, one that against the windscreen and two above and behind.



The Need for Speed features a split-screen mode so you can take on pals in the race to become the over-drive.



Nothing particularly wrong with The Need for Speed, it just looks a bit on the dated side, and with a new Daytona on the way this is one for those with an excess of gaming cash.

THE LIVING ROAD

There's quite a variety of landscapes to speed through in the need for Speed. You might like to sample the winding countryside which gives you stunning views, or put to the test. Or maybe take a scenic journey along the coastal road, or take a more relaxing trip along the winding roads of the forest. There's even a challenge for giving you the toughest to totally lose concentration.



graphics	80
sound	82
playability	76
instability	72

overall

75%

you buy it.

3.49 for three evenings

**BLOCKBUSTER
VIDEO**

BY	EA
PRICE	£79.95
STYLE	SHORT 'EM UP
RELEASE	JULY/AUGUST

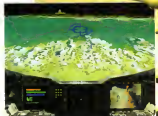
I suppose you could describe Shockwave Assault as a kind of interactive movie, although to be fair it's largely gameplay orientated with the FMV cutting in now and then to fill out the plot. Not that the plot needs much filling out. To summarise, aliens have invaded Earth and you must destroy them. And there it is. Naturally you've got a state-of-the-art combat aircraft to help you out, packed to the teeth with an assortment of potent weapons. But the rest is simply a matter of listening to instructions from headquarters and shooting anything that looks vaguely unhuman. Oh, and there is the chance to share a few gung-ho high-fives with your buddies in the post-conflict FMV sequences. Although you can't really play this part of the game of course.

So what is there to the gameplay then? Hmm, not much really. You're armed with regular lasers, thrusters and missiles which are renewed along with your shields when you fly under a certain speed. You then simply have to control the cross-hair in alignment with the aircraft and shoot the enemies when it targets red. Most of them are either triped types like something out of War of the Worlds or flying aliens that look like fragments of film. Sort of.

Each part of your mission carries an objective. It might simply be to destroy every alien invader in the area, but more often than not it comes with certain complications like having to protect oil refineries or destroy a "tish blah" despite these oddities, what the game comes down to is lots of endless running about, targeting and shooting.

The repetitive nature of the action in Shockwave Assault is one of the factors that contributes to its utter blandness. With only the odd alien knocking about, you quickly become bored and the fact that your aircraft seems to be permanently set the GMP speed doesn't help either the proceedings. Shockwave Assault reminds me a bit of Titan Wars, a game that was similar not only in its bland approach to the gameplay but also in its hugely naff FMV elements which are cheese personified. It's not even as if the in-game graphics make up for the lack of genuine excitement. The texture mapped landscapes (apparently taken from real aerial photographs) look ok, but the alien ships and animations are all distinctly sub-standard. What's more, the detection on the crosshair isn't always entirely accurate. You might be aiming directly at an enemy but your lasers will be hitting

Alien invasion - it's the drug of the nation! From the X-Files to the new film, Independence Day, alien fever is reaching millennial pitch. Shockwave Assault decides to throw its oar in with the rest but from the look of things, it's sinking fast.

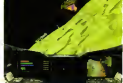


something next to it or in front and behind it. The interactive elements that come in the shape of other pilots and your commander appearing on the monitor to provide objectives and so on, might seem like fun but it is in fact more annoying than anything. If you're shooting civilian buildings for the hell of it, your commander sarcastically points out that "They're on our side". If you're idly wandering about, bored out of your skull, shooting at anything, she barks "This is not a game lieutenant!" Well, she's right there at least.

ROD

COLLECTOR

This is a collector. If you have any old Victorian talismans or Art Deco statuettes that this chapter might well be interested



Shock Wave Assault



This is one of the alien space craft you can expect to see. Beautiful isn't it. And dead!



"It looks like we've got a problem here General. We're caught in the 'bionic vortex' in the fringes of the 'lunar galaxy'."

Shockwave Assault is a bit of a disaster all round, what with bland, repetitive game play, sub-standard graphics, and the usual dose of soft FMV. You might be into your aliens but this is no incentive to avoid

graphics	70	overall 55%
sound	72	
playability	54	
value	55	

BY	ACCLAIM
PRICE	£19.95
STYLE	SPORTS SIMULATION
RELEASE	JULY 1998

Baseball bats are usually used for doling out **severe beatings** in this country. It might surprise you to find out that that's **not the purpose for which they were invented**. No, they're actually designed to **play baseball** with. Learn how to put that stick to more humane use with Franky baby...

Girl Baseball is a hard game! Girl! It's about Big Hurt, taking the pain, wearing waspnet and growling. It's not slay rounders at all, oh no, it's got nothing at all in common with the game girls have to play at school. Instead of cricket. And there's nothing soft about having to hold the bat in both hands, as opposed to the single paw permitted in rounders. Heck, baseball is a man's game, and anyone who says otherwise has Frank Thomas to argue with. And Frank Thomas don't have no name like no goddam accountant, you hear me? He's an all-American bicker-pandering sportsperson. Just to prove what a super sports bloke he is, Frank has lent his name to a computerised version of his game for those too weak to participate physically.

Obviously there aren't many fans of Frank's favoured pursuit in this country which happens to be the national sport of America. Otherwise there'd be some sort of national baseball league on the telly instead of all this football business. However, don't be daunted by the rules, as they're dead simple. You're out if you miss three pitches or have one hit caught – if you're not out make your way around the four bases hoping you're not caught out by a base prison or your punny between each one. The really complex bit comes with the thousands of stats which American sports fans don't seem to be able to live without all of which are heavily present in Big Hurt Baseball. Indeed, it takes about a hundred thousand years to actually get to the game play, such is the number of options and stat screens standing in your way.

Once you do get to the action it's a fairly straightforward process: a rhyme even vaguely familiar with any baseball game on any format could get to grips with. Different combinations of buttons and joydial directions produce different throws and swings. Once the ball is struck the camera pans out to a full overview of the field, where the batting



team decide whether to run and the pitching team try to get them out. This is where the trouble sets in. Certain sports not so popular in this country like ice hockey can make excellent games, usually because there's a lot of inter-play between team members necessitating a fast-paced use of strategy as much as arcade skill. Baseball is far more straightforward, based on individual athletic ability and giving video games players only one thing to think about at a time. As a result the sport is reduced to a taking turns routine instead of a fluid ongoing game – which is what makes an exciting piece of software.

This isn't to say Big Hurt is awful. It's about as good as a baseball game can be. It's just that practically no-one in the UK is going to know who all these players are or care about their fortunes on the killing field that is a baseball diamond. If you're one of the initiated few with a baseball interest, this is OK, although it's nothing you won't have seen on the Megadive to be honest, apart from the now-ubiquitous choice of camera angles. The majority of gamers would be best spending their money on something more universally appealing. Oh yeah, and the commentary is absolutely crap.

R O B



The giant head of Frank Thomas appears in an over-the-top scene the outfield, inspiring his home team to greater glory and striking fear into the hearts of his security anxieties. Truly, he is a God amongst computer game Diamond baseball players.



American sports fans like their stats, that's for sure. That's why every time you see two people discussing sport in America they're always referring to about 1000 and four averages and things, instead of "Did you see that one goal?" like we do. Anyway, no American sports game would be complete without loads of useless figures. Big Hurt 'n' American pos'. Here are some for you to gaze at.



Frank Thomas BIG HURT BASEBALL



STADIUMS ROCK!

Big Hurt's stadium is by no means a model of transcendent architecture. It would appear to be one you know what it is, but it's a very major city in the American South. It's more reminiscent of a baseball field which one you like. It's a good idea, but it's not at all the same as the game, but also the skybox. It's a good idea, but it's not at all the same as the game, but also the skybox. It's a good idea, but it's not at all the same as the game, but also the skybox.

Hit the ball hard enough to send it quite far away from where you stand. This way the fielders will have less chance of "roving" you as you jog about.



Increased at the giant size of the new baseballs, the baseball sales leaders will everybody out.

A fair approximation of a minority sport which probably won't convert any sceptics.

graphics	71
sound	58
playability	64
longevity	51

overall

58%

BY	VERGEN
PRICE	£29.95
STYLE	SHOOT 'EM UP
RELEASED	JULY 1998



We like helicopters at SSM. In fact, we've even got a plastic police helicopter toy which flies up into the air when you pull on a bit of string at the base. That's how great we think helicopters are. Which is good news for helicopter games.

Helicopter games have long held a fascination for games programmers. Perhaps that's because they grew up weaned on a steady diet of *Airwolf* and *Blue Thunder*, heads filled with the potent image of a shiny whirly-

bird rising into view over the edge of a rocky precipice. Or perhaps they've watched *At Play* in the fields of the land one time too many and are obsessed with mauling anyone they see. Whatever the reasons it's a safe bet that any new console wandering around on its own looking lost will soon be set upon by a pack of chopper games pulling at its coat sleeves and trying to lead its software collection astray. To continue labelling this analogy, up until now *Thunderhawk* has been known and loved as the *Fog of War* helicopter shoot 'em up, overlord and canon timer inspiration for the junior titles in the genre. One such of these is Virgin's new title, *Operation Blackline*.

It's got a rather more intriguing plot than *Thunderhawk*, which concerns the US military kidnapping recovered alien technology in secret bases. Predictably one of the best military geniuses decides to steal it all and use the new-found power to take over the whole world. Only one man in a comparably ordinary helicopter can mount the covert missions needed to destroy Cadogan (as it is he) and his large army of hired "band" of terrorists with their tanks and their guns and their guns and their bombs.

You've got a lot of back up from an intelligence team at HQ, who brief you on each sortie you fly. There are three sorties to a mission and nine missions in the game (making a total of 27 levels), and each of these

has a primary target which needs destroying and sometimes a secondary target which needs destroying too. The emphasis of *Blackline* is definitely on blowing things up. The only trouble is that helicopters are notoriously tricky to handle, thanks to the number of ways in which they move (climbing, sliding, up and down etc). So the first enemy you face is your own control. However, *Blackline* makes things fairly sim-

ple, with a straightforward button arrangement, and a choice of definable controls for permanently players. Once you've got the hang of flying the *Blackline* it's time to take on Cadogan's forces. And what forces that man has. Within seconds of starting your first mission you'll find yourself surrounded, assailed by missiles from every direction. The only way to rescue yourself is to use your auto-targeting computer to aim your many (but not infinite) missiles and bullets whilst hoping you don't accidentally veer into any of the billions of missiles which show up on your radar. Repeat this evade/destroy/continue briefly until all the missions are completed.

This is basically where *Blackline* lets itself down a bit. It seems that the challenge has far more to do with sheer weight of numbers than tactics or geographically inspired strategy. You're not given enough time to pick off foes one by one, you have to wait until you're surrounded and blow up a load of them at once - which lets you up for a fast and untimely death. Once your targeting computer is blown out, or you lose an engine or your steering is cooked, it's only a matter of time until you take the big dive. The murky, feature mapping which looks more like various shades of sick than terrain doesn't aid the atmosphere either. Basically, *Blackline* is a good game engine saddled with a disappointing level promise. The mission objectives increase in their complexity, but the action required to complete each one doesn't. It's enjoyable enough for a while, but don't expect a classic - or even more than a week's enjoyment.

RAP



This mission asks you to destroy a whole gaggle of enemy supply trucks. If you don't get them all to see go they run away and you have to track them down - which uses a lot of precious fuel. The best thing to do is use your big gun to get them all in straight off. Destroy everything! Amehhh!!!



Oh dear - the city is swarming with evil enemy aircraft. Now would be the right time to use a cluster bomb and run away. Just look at that radar - there's a load more evil enemies on their way. Luckily you don't have to panic because this is just a screenshot.



Try it before

Rent any latest release for just

Operation BLACKFIRE



That big missile isn't in the game. It's part of the artwork above. Sorry.



Red sky at morning, three minutes warning.



The effects of a big cluster bomb in action. This missile splits into lots of little missiles which fly in all directions, destroying levels of enemies in one go. And yourself if you're too close. So stay far away, that's our advice. You'll get in to all sorts of trouble otherwise.



DON'T LOSE THE PLOT

The good thing about powerful consoles is how much of an extra storytelling apparatus they provide you with. No longer do you need to rely on scuffling text in-between levels. In *Operation Blackfire* keeps you up to speed with what's happening in the game world with radio messages played constantly through each level – both from members of your side and your powerful opponents! Plus there are computer-animated FMV intermissions featuring big footage of your jet also destroying things and flying in a glorified and by your level like from movies.



A nice idea, but *Blackfire* doesn't really have what it takes to grab the player's attention for long.

graphics	86
sound	84
playability	78
usability	72

overall

75%

you buy it.

£3.49 for three evenings

**BLOCKBUSTER
VIDEO**

BY	SEGA
PRICE	£19.95
STYLE	SHOOT 'EM UP
RELEASE	AUGUST

Sometimes it's easy to forget just how long it takes to program a game, although not in arcade conversions with all the fiddly design work already out of the way take months. When we first saw *Gungriffon* over it was under the imaginative and evocative title of *JD Poligon*, and it was being developed alongside *Panzer Dragoon* (then called *Action Game*) as one of the first Saturn titles. Obviously it's taken them a bit of time to get the final product in, given that *Panzer's* SEQUEL has been in the shops for

months now, but looking at how *Gungriffon* has turned out you can definitely see that there's been a lot of time and attention lavished upon it. In fact it's almost hard to believe that it was scheduled to appear in the first wave of Saturn games, as opposed to the third (ah).

Now, you regular readers, the ones who support our ailing rent cheques and put food in our mouths, you'll already have read the *Gungriffon* showcase we printed in issue 6, and for that we thank you. However there are some people, people

who aren't regular readers, who might not exactly know what *Gungriffon* is about. Well, we'll tell you as long as you promise to keep buying our magazines every month from now on. Here's! All right then - *Gungriffon* is a robot war game set in a dark future where giant continental alliances fight each other for the precious few scraps of fossil fuel and mineral resources left on planet Earth. You play the pilot of a giant robot war machine, and in each level you're dropped in the middle of a combat zone with a specific mission in mind. Watch the briefing before the stage carefully as it details a map of the area, enemy troop locations and what exactly it is your commanders want of you. From here it's a simple matter of crushing and destroying all that lies in front of you (apart from the friendly forces).

This might sound the premise for a thousand giant robot games or helicopter games, or space ship games, or any number of other kinds of games - and indeed it is.

Angry at the world? Why not step into a thirty-foot robot and destroy your neighbours? Can't afford a robot? Then go down the shops and have a look at *Gungriffon*.

But it isn't the idea behind *Gungriffon* that's exciting, it's the execution. *Gungriffon* features some of the smoothest and most convincingly animated graphics going, especially considering the free play environment. Although graphics, they say, make not a game, in this case they certainly act to enhance the atmosphere and it's this which makes *Gungriffon* such an engrossing game to play. Along with all the destruction

The missions that await you in *Gungriffon* are many and varied in concept, terrain, difficulty, tactics and even lighting. And by differences in lighting, we're not talking about the usual day/night thing - some *Gungriffon* stages are set in pitch blackness where it's impossible to see just about anything except muscle flashes, which necessitates the use of green screen night vision goggles, which have their own drawbacks. Much of *Gungriffon*'s development time has obviously gone into designing the levels in an effort to make first person free movement blasting interesting for more than one level. The other units engaged in combat around you, the explosions crackling through the radio and the constant element of surprise death keep you attuned to the game even during quiet moments.

There are already a couple of games like *Gungriffon* floating around, like *Thunderhawk* and *Blackline* (reviewed this issue). However they all fail to capture the spirit (and technical achievements for that matter) of *Segas* entry to the genre. Maybe that's because it's had all the time in infinity spent upon writing it, but what you're left with is a superlative smashing and destroying game.

The Saturn doesn't score so highly for shoot 'em ups as it does for ray fighting games, and *Gungriffon* is an excellent addition to the ranks. If you're after high speed thrills you might be better off with *Panzer Dragoon*, simply because your mech is slightly cantankerous and not as fluid moving. However, if you're just in it for the explosions, *Gungriffon* is certainly worth your money.

RAD



Since the rise of crime rates in lower cities, Santa has had to update his delivery methods, as you hear in *Lapdog*.





GUNGRIFFON

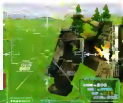


These shots come from the Japanese version of the game, hence the Japanese text. The English version will have English text. So there.



MY LITTLE ROBOT

Whittling a war robot out to quite the piece of cake you might imagine it to be. There's all sorts of things to take into consideration other than a long jumping, kicking, bombing, swording your gun barrel – all those things are integral parts of the Gungriffon experience. There's also a subtle positioning element: think of how you climb up on top of a building, dig your way out, or fast moving as Harrier Dragon. But there's a lot more going on. Which means you have some real things to think about in the midst of combat. (Shrug)



One of the best giant robot games ever, and an awesome shoot 'em up in its own right, Gungriffon deserves investigation by all bang-loving Saturn owners.

graphics	90	overall 88%
sound	67	
playability	88	
durability	91	

Here is one of your friendly friend units – and he's under attack. Shoot the enemies firing at him before he's destroyed, or you'll lose his covering fire.



BY	ACCLBIN
PRICE	£39.99
STYLE	SPORTS SIMULATION
RELEASE	OCT NOV

After several months spent **bouncing off the ropes**, **WWF Wrestlemania** has finally made it to the Saturn, just in time for a **summer slam**. Was it worth the wait? With eight larger than life characters, **tonnes of crazy moves** to try out, and loads of **mad combo's**, we reckon so.



bit too shallow. Well rest assured that this isn't the case with WWF Wrestlemania, because while it is easy for beginners to be bashing away happy as scallywags, if you want to become a bit of a master you'll have to start mastering the huge range of combos available, some of which involve over 15 continual hits! Combo's are activated when you have some power in your combo bar which sits just below your energy bar and these are damn funny to watch.

Graphically WWF Wrestlemania doesn't match the gameplay, but while it's all 2D the sprites are nevertheless nicely drawn and animated and there's always plenty of movement in the ring (or out of it), especially when you get four wrestlers fighting a huge brawl at once. As you'll expect, this is a much more satisfying game to play in two player mode, partly because the tournament is a tad too easy and partly because gloating over a live opponent is more fun.

It's true that maybe WWF Wrestlemania could have done with a few more characters, something that would enhance its longevity as well as its playability but who knows, maybe there'll be more in a sequel. Yes another WWF game! Previously that might have sounded like a death knell, but if they maintain and improve on the standard of WWF Wrestlemania it might well be something to feel a bit cheerful about.

ROB



Wrestling has to be one of the most depressing things to find yourself watching, it's the kind of desperately bored viewing that makes you ask yourself angst ridden questions like 'what am I doing with my life!', 'surely there's more to it than this?' and 'why did I ever bother getting sky in the first place?' It's often been the way with the accompanying wrestling games as well.

It was with such anguish that I first took WWF Wrestlemania from its case, sighing dejectedly as I close the lid, waiting desperately for the title screen, an air of resignation already lingering about the console...but hold on here! What's this? I seem to be enjoying myself. I'm actually finding some of this amusing! It must mean one of two things: either I've somehow mutated into the high priest of sports or this is actually quite good to my relief it's the latter.

The reason WWF Wrestlemania succeeds where so many others have failed is all to do with its immediate accessibility. After about five minutes you'll find yourself able to perform some of the most outrageous moves there's: Doink drawing a mallet from his jacket. The Undertaker unleashing a pack of wolves, Yokozuma demon slaying a diving belly flop from the ropes and loads of other over the top stuff going on. Ok, so this isn't what you'd normally see in WWF but then who wants to see conservative Elbow and mundane knees to the back when you can have a real circus extravaganza. That's not to say you can't do the boring moves as well. WWF Wrestlemania has so many moves that you'll constantly be discovering new ones. Another fear that normally pops up as soon as you get into it mentioned is that the game is a



Yokozuma demonstrates the benefits of being incredibly fat. When he pins an opponent down he simply sits on them!





WWF Wrestlemania



Alone - The Undertaker and Yokozuna take care of Bret Hart in a two-on-one battle. You can also play two-on-two.



HEY! THAT'S FUNNY!

True to hatched nature of many of the moves in WWF Wrestlemania gives the game a more down-to-earth, general atmosphere. Doink for example uses a huge down boot and mallet to deal his wrestling with opponents. The Undertaker takes pride of witless from under his huge cloak. Yokozuna uses a wobbly belly attack and Shien Matsuo makes use of a baseball bat to enhance his performance, and Razor Ramon, rather obviously, makes use of a huge blade to slam opponents. It might not be satisfying, but it sure is fun!



WWF gives you the chance to get into some classic wrestling fun by climbing the ropes and then jumping in on an opponent. Each character has their own particular style of jump.

Forget the 3D heat 'em up for a little while. WWF Wrestlemania is proof that you can still get a lot of great playability out of the traditional 2D title. And it's pretty darn funny too!

graphics	80	overall
sound	82	
playability	87	
testability	84	
		86%

BY	ACCLAIM
PRICE	£44.99
STYLE	SPORTS SIMULATION
RELEASE	JUNE 1996



By now you probably can't close your eyes without seeing footballs darting in all directions. Your ears are no doubt deafened by the maniacal of post-match catchphrases like "well, we knew we were in for a tough match but the lads pulled through" and "yes, well, I saw it coming, managed to get a touch and luckily it went in". And while football might be a game of two halves, you can't forget the possibility of extra-time. So here it is in the shape of Acclaim's Striker '96, the latest in the ever-growing range of football sims available on the Saturn.

You'd be justified in thinking this one's missed the boat as far as Euro '96 is concerned. What's unfortunate is that it's only the first of many misses. If Euro '96 is the majestic Newcastle FIFA '96 the solid Man U.



Recognise these players? If come on, they're made up.

A great football team? The defence is **solid**, the midfield **inspirational**, and the strikers **deadly**. But is Striker '96 deadly. Hmmm, it shows **moments of promise** but in front of goal it **loses its nerve**.



Striker gives you the chance to play indoors which means no fans and continual play.



It's a South American derby in effect! The mighty Argentinians take on Bolivia.



tional. Like its predecessors, Striker '96 features a range of camera angles to suit your viewing devices and it's even got a free-a-side option which is something that neither Euro '96 or FIFA '96 can boast. But, to use a



cliche almost as worn as footballing speak, all this means nothing if the gameplay isn't up to scratch. And in Striker '96 it isn't. For starters the actions moves too fast, and although that is something that appeals to some, I'm a bit of a stickler for realism in a footy game, and subsequently I found it frustrating. It also meant that when the computer played as a guest team like Italy, Germany or Brazil the passing had an almost supernatural quality, players moving the ball about with a telepathic accuracy that seemed a bit ridiculous at first. Admittedly after getting used to the game style this didn't seem quite as bad and as my technique improved I managed to stave off their lack of scoring a goal every ten seconds. Another departure from soccer realism came with the behaviour of the ball itself. It moves like one of those gyro efforts you can buy at the newsagents and that

float away as soon as there's a gust of wind. Some of the after touch swerve made banana shots look like cucumber shots in comparison, practically bending through goal.

Graphically Striker '96 falls short as well. The sprites are small and as a result you don't get to gaze at the lead of fine players shown in Euro '96. Instead they all jitter about at amazing pace like 12 over active school kids. What really sealed it for me though was the commentary. Both Euro '96 and FIFA '96 employ the talents of BBC's finest, but Striker '96 opted for Andy Gray. Gray's venerable windbag. Ok, so maybe this is simply personal taste, and you might even say the same for the style of play that Striker '96 adopts. Fast in the sense of the old arcade footy games. Maybe, but that doesn't stop it from being often more entertaining than fun to play, and when it comes to choosing between what's in the market, who would you go for — Newcastle or Leeds?

ROB





REVIEW 

STRIKER '96



Striker '96 features an option that lets you play in the Euro '96 competition with all the groups properly set up and everything. Of course, you won't know the players from Adam.

INDOORS - YOU KNOW THE SCORES!

Striker '96 features an option which is entirely its own: the chance to play indoors in five-a-side games. You can still play all the tournaments indoors, accepting of course that your team has now been halved. The indoor game feels even faster than normal, and it's made more hectic, partly because the ball never goes out of play and partly because in the indoor mode there are no fouls at all (meaning play never stops).



My best: It's the overhead view



A very average football game which, when faced with the likes of Euro '96, looks tired and a bit dated. Put it on the sales bench.

graphics	70
sound	72
playability	75
longevity	77

overall

75%

BY	ACCLAIM
FILED	ETBA
STYL	SPORTS SIMULATION
RELEASE	JUNE 1998

Many people believe there's a link between a child's upbringing and the career they choose to enter in later life. Doctors tend to stay in the family, and kids who grow up in liberal hippy environments often turn out as artists, actors or rebel accountants. The programmer of Virtual Open must have had great admiration for his parents, who no doubt ran a home for alcoholic horses. So much so that the stumbling gait of a drunken equine is replicated almost perfectly in this game - sadly it is in the movement of your player. More so, of you may not have seen an aged-up gee-gee in action, so allow us to describe the effect for you. The players in V Open shift around the court



A rare-legged (sway) player, the result of an horrific genetic experimentation by The Olympic Council. Not really, it's just the standard copypasta roll out when the perspective on a screen shot makes it look like someone's missing a limb.



It's another sport invented in Britain which we're famously bad at! It's tennis! And now it's here for your Saturn, you lucky lucky dogs. Play!

like their legs are on sideways, even reacting to the slightest touch of the controls, not going where you want them to, or else going unstopably too far in the right direction. Sometimes you'll think your lack is in and you've got your little Mike just where you want him, so you'll hit the fire button and watch as they collapse pathetically a mile away like a super-powered wine trying to escape an oncoming pushchair. This is a diving shot.

Perhaps needless to say the pinpoint control pretty much essential to the success of a tennis simulation is a bony bit on the absent side. This wouldn't matter quite so much if the collision detection on your racket was a bit more predictable. Sometimes you'll face a shot that you're absolutely nowhere near and others you'll have yourself positioned perfectly only for the ball to sail mysteriously through your racket. And it's not as if you can even work out the precise time of collision because there's no feeling of connection when a shot strikes - you can't even really see whether you've hit or not until the ball is sailing across the other half of the court.

This isn't to say that Virtual Open doesn't have its good points or original features. There's an impres-



The similar shot above looks something moved about Virtual Open - it's not on the moon, and planet Earth is clearly visible from the stadium. The gravity is weird, unaffected by being in space. Good job too.



sive selection of camera angles to view the action from (all of which are accessible at any point during the game). The quantity of possible shots is equally plentiful with every little button upon your joypad coming into play producing a dazzling array of scorch techniques to exploit, especially when combined with topspin, sidspin, jumping shots, the aforementioned diving shots and so on. There's also a clever bounce meter which predicts where the ball will bounce on court up to three times by use of different coloured markers on the floor. This seems a bit strange at first but actually proves quite useful. However all this pleasant game design froppery is wasted simply because the cumbersome controls. It's a shame because an effort was obviously made to give Virtual Open a realistic feel. Instead the awkward over zoom plus animation slows everything down and spoils what would have been a decent title. Hopefully Imaginavee and Acclaim will get their heads together and produce a Wimbledon Edition or something which will perform the same super enhancing job as Victory Golf '96 did for its lamentable predecessor.

RAO





IT FELL TO EARTH I KNOW EXACTLY WHERE

Early tennis games asked players to gauge the position of the ball by latitude only, adding ball shadows when all this tricky 3D perspective thing started up. Since then there's been a revolution in ball-tracking technology, and Virtual Open adds to this legacy. Once the ball is in the air a red indicator marks where it's likely to hit the ground. If it's a low shot and will bounce more than once on-court, a blue marker indicates the projected second bounce. Unlikely third bounces are marked in green. So now you know.



Virtual Open Tennis



Virtual Open is crammed to the rafters with different kinds of tennis shot. It's just a pity the timing is a bit strange and the controls are so clunky. Still, it's well overdue.



If you're a bit of a tennis hardhat, take us 8000 in this exciting final! Actually, it's a training section to help you get used to the controls. There's service, return and smash training options.

Good design and a lot of innovations, but whilst I'd really like to like Virtual Open it's just too cumbersome for anyone but real hardcore enthusiasts.

graphics	78
sound	79
playability	72
lastability	66

overall

68%



BY	VIRGIN
PRICE	£79.95
STYLE	SHOOT 'EM UP
RELEASE	AUGUST

A If it took was a few jobs about the resemblance of the Chen species to guppy fish and wham-mo! — an alien race that had been our chums after landing on Earth as refugees suddenly decided to declare war instead. That's the problem with aliens, no sense of humour. And anyway, they do look like fish. And while this explanation for the hostilities now existing between human and alien might seem a bit far fetched, it's also irrelevant. Why? Because Chen War is about what all wars are about: loads of shooting, explosions, adventure and death!

Chen War is viewed from a first person perspective, the player assuming the role of the crack commando whose job it is to do a hypersuit and take to a alien terrain in search of blood and glory. There are six stages in all, including the first stage which is actually simply a training course designed to familiarise players with the controls and the variety of weapons at their disposal. Each stage takes place on a different planet and involves completing a series of missions that see you destroying reactor refineries, invading a space port, sneaking about on Chen space ships and doing all of that classic war dog kind

of stuff. The weapons are pretty much standard fare, you've got your ever present lasers which take care of foot soldiers, super-charged neutron lasers for the tougher energy sprites, things like grenades and mines which are good for causing structural damage (e.g. towers, bases etc.), and missiles (ordnance or tracking) which are designed to deal with just about

Chen War certainly has been a long time in coming. There were even moments when it looked like it wasn't going to make it at all. But thankfully Virgin got it together and here it is. And pretty good it is too.

anything.

Despite the fact that Chen War uses all of the established tricks in the book, taking its influences from games like Doom and Doom II, it nevertheless manages to provide a fair degree of entertainment. Because of the diversity of the mission objectives on each stage, Chen War manages to avoid

becoming too repetitive and this coupled with the usual alien laughter means you're unlikely to get bored too easily. There are some useful little additions like the map that charts exactly where you have been and where you haven't — something that enables you to avoid the frustration of going round in circles.

But Chen War does have its faults. To begin with the controls feel a bit clumsy and the movement a tad confusing. Rest assured though that once you've played it enough to get comfortable with what does what, progressing through the game is largely free of irritants. That is if you exclude the tedious, irritating FMV sequences that intrude on popping up between stages featuring the usual dose of Rammy Hollywood wannabes. Fortunately the options let you skip these excruciating sequences which I suggest you do. The graphics aren't exactly sensational either: the terrain looking quite similar to one another, lots of dull, muddy colours, and the sprites move in a rather wooden fashion and I think the game could probably have done with more of them to liven things up a bit more. Some lovely burning sunsets though.

With Doom still looking like a faint prospect at the moment, a game like Chen War makes for a pretty good filler in the meantime. The graphics won't have your jaw dropping and the gameplay won't keep your eyes pinned to the screen into the early hours, but Chen War has just a bout enough in the way of thrills to make you a content little alien annihilator.

8.0



That's right - in the future cameras tripods are used as deadly weapons of war! And beware the Mr. Tactical!



of stuff. The weapons are pretty much standard fare, you've got your ever present lasers which take care of foot soldiers, super-charged neutron lasers for the tougher energy sprites, things like grenades and mines which are good for causing structural damage (e.g. towers, bases etc.), and missiles (ordnance or tracking) which are designed to deal with just about



You'll have to make use of one of your missiles to destroy this.



GHEEN WAR

DIE FISHY TYPES!



Watching plastic-esque aliens explode is a wonderful pastime I'm sure you'll agree. However, in *Gheen War* it's not something you can do as often as you've got a fine selection of weapons to do it with. For starters there's the standard laser which you have in limitless supply. Collect the diamond-shaped ion though and they become super-charged neutron lasers. Mines can be laid to destroy anything that comes within its proximity (excluding you of course). There are grenades which, with a mechanical toss, will see your foes burst in bloody death, and finally there are the missiles. One kind locks on and tracks down enemies and the other requires your own targeting skills but is far more deadly. Ideal for tougher opponents.

NEUTRON LASER



USING MINE



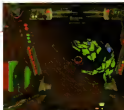
GRENADES



MISSILES



DEATH



Should it be the Game's very own version of the First Probe complete with a very fitting green camouflage.



Far from being innovative and lacking the kind of thrills that make a game a classic, *Gheen War* still manages to qualify as a fun shoot 'em up. Fans of *Doom*-style action might be silenced. For a while at least.

graphics	77
sound	80
playability	78
testability	76

overall

78%

Undead heroes rise from beyond the grave to strike at your soul! Yes, indeed, the software title formerly known as *Vampire Hunter* is about to infect Saturns throughout the nation, and in the third of his comprehensive moves specials, **DAVID HOGGSON** swishes a ruffled cape about and descends into a bottomless pit to investigate exactly what the entire cast of this supernatural beat-fest have on offer in the combat zone. Dare you read further, dear reader? Only if you want the entire moves list at your disposal plus some handy cheats that make this release arguably the finest 2D Saturn beat 'em up ever seen...

SEGA SATURN MAGAZINE HINTS: Remember that a few of these manoeuvres work only when your character is airborne, and others can also be used as a guard reversal (ie counter strike as incoming enemy hit). Also note that some Channelled Attacks require your character to be powered up.



Demetri's massive fireball completely outes a glittering enemy, making them think twice before challenging the lord of the night to another intense confrontation!



DEMETRI MAXIMOFF VAMPIRE

The Count of Terror is the easiest character to first master, and as he bears a moves list not dissimilar to a certain gi-cladbed karate kid, it isn't difficult to fathom why. All your old Street Fighter moves seem to work well here, and although neither speedy nor cumbersome, Demetri excels in a variety of attacks. Try this lord of the undead before embarking on the more confusing characters.

SUMMONING POWERS

GRASS FIRE	□, □, □ + any punch
DEMON CLAMOR	□, □, □ + any punch
BAT SWIM	□, □, □ + any kick
FLYING SQUIRREL	□, □, □, □, □, □, □, □ + any punch

CHANNELLED POWERS

MIDNIGHT PLEASURE	□, □, □ + two punches
DEMON BLAST	□, □, □ + two kicks



JON TALBAIN WEREWOLF

This lycanthropic fanatic has many moves to dazzle the eye, and his speed should be used to the full when tackling a foe. Try his blink laser as the move may be repeated and varied in direction for a truly stunning light-show (and charged opponents), but Galle's slightly jumpy physique makes him a Darkstalker to attempt hit and run opportunities rather than a woad in and back strategy.

SUMMONING POWERS

STRAIGHT BLAST RUSH	□, □, □ + any punch
ROBBO BEAST RUSH	□, □, □ + any punch
AIR BEAST RUSH	Jump, □, □, □ + any punch
WILD CIRCULAR	□, □, □, □, □ + any kick
CLIMB LASSER	□, □ + kick
MILLION FLICKER	□, □, □ + any punch

CHANNELLED POWERS

MIDNIGHT PLEASURE	□, □, □ + two punches
DEMON BLAST	□, □, □ + two kicks
WILDLAND BODY	□, □, □, □, □ + two kicks





LORD RAPTOR ZOMBIE

By far the most humorous character in the entire pack, Raptor (or Zaber in Japan) is definitely the joker of the pack, armed with a comprehensive array of stalling hits and even the ability to turn an opponent into a small basketball and then slam dunk it through a net held by a giant fish (did you not). Quite silly and good with the low hits, Raptor requires timing to turn him into a notting killing machine.

SUMMONING POWERS

DEATH HURRICANE	□, ○, ○ - any kick
SMALL STING	□, ○ - any kick
HILL'S AUTO	□, ○, ○, ○ - any kick
SMALL PUNISH	□, ○, ○, ○, ○ - any punch

CHANNELLED POWERS

DEATH FOUNTAIN	□, ○, ○, ○ - two kicks
EYE SCREAM	□, ○ - two kicks
HILL GUNG	□, ○, ○ - two punches



HSIEN-KO CHINESE GHOST

A newcomer to the world of the Vampire Hunter, the possessed girl can certainly hold her own in the combat zone thanks to her base attacks striking a foe many times, and an array of highly confusing moves, such as the weapon cannon where she throws a multitude of strange objects (such as burial trees, Capricorn symbols and even an Akuma doll). Very popular in Japan, Hsien-Ko (aka Lei-Lai) is another well-rounded character that is very good to start with.

SUMMONING POWERS

WINDY WEAPON GUNION	□, ○, ○ - any punch
WINDYING GARGE	□, ○, ○ - R tag Punch (or)
REVERAL BOMB	□, ○, ○ - any punch
WEAPON RELEASE STRIKE	□, ○, ○ - any punch (close)

CHANNELLED POWERS

WINDING SPIRIT SWORDS	□, ○, ○, ○, ○ - two kicks
WEAVER THUNDER DESTINATION	Light Kick, Fierce Kick, Medium Punch, Medium Punch, ○

TIPS



Bring some Haskett electrical currents. Victor shocks any opponent into unconscious!



VICTOR VON GERDENHEIM FRANKENSTEIN

Good lord, unless I'm very much mistaken, it appears to be the Angel with best attachments. Superficially at least, Victor is perfect for the unsophisticated Darkstalking player who relies on fear and brute strength (and of course seems uninterested in mauling) to accomplish a job. His fantastic reach and thick hide are only let down by his slothfulness.

SUMMONING POWERS

CHINA HAMMER	Charge □, ○ - any punch
CHINA BUSTER	Charge □, ○ - any kick
CYND CRUSH	□, ○, ○ - any punch
CHINA BURN	□, ○, ○ - any kick
MEGA SHOCK	□, ○, ○ - Medium or Fierce
MEGA SPIRE	□, ○, ○, ○, ○, ○, ○, ○ - any punch

CHANNELLED POWERS

THUNDER BREAK	Charge □, ○ - two punches
GREAT BELDENHEIM	□, ○, ○, ○ - two punches





FELICIA CAT WOMAN

Once again the Street Fighter comparisons must be questioned, as Felicia plays rather like Chun-Li, but with a few important differences. Quick nimble effects are the order of the day with this feline pussy, and watch for a particularly spectacular special attack if you see one of your bags, as this frightening feline has the ability to score an amazing 34 hits with one Dancing Flash!

SUMMONING POWERS

ROLLING BUCKLER	○, ○, ○ = any punch
DELTA KICK	○, ○, ○ = any kick
ROLLING SCRATCH	○, ○, ○ = any punch, tap punch
SAND SPLASH	○, ○, ○ = any kick
HELL CAT JUMP	○, ○, ○, ○, ○ = any kick

CHANNELLED POWERS

DANCING FLASH	○, ○, ○ = two punches
PLEASE HELP ME	○, ○, ○, ○, ○ = two kicks



Morrican may be a mild-mannered secretary by day, but at night she does suspenders and becomes mistress of the night!



SHOOTBACK! Yep, this oney feature strangely fazed enemies, but some of the basic moves need a head (and a testicle) to SFT...

MORRICAN AENSLAND SUCCUBUS

Those thinking that Dennis was the tip of the penis should consider Morrican to be distinctly Ken-like, as she inherits Mr Masters' Dragon Punch expertise but has more moves than the crimson gi kente master. Easy to use, and with a Valleyrle Yarn that'll inflict more damage than you thought possible (despite being difficult to connect), Morrican remains a firm Saturn Mug favourite, not least because of her costume change cheat!

SUMMONING POWERS

SOUL FEET	○, ○, ○ = any punch
HR SOUL FEET	Jump, ○, ○, ○ = any punch
SHADOW BLADE	○, ○, ○, ○ = any punch
VICTOR DRUM	○, ○, ○, ○, ○ = any punch

CHANNELLED POWERS

SHADOWS EMISSION	Light Punch, Light Punch, ○, Light Kick, Pierce Punch
ASTRAL VISION	Light Punch, Light Punch, ○, Medium Punch, Pierce Punch
VALLEYRLE YARN	○, ○, ○, ○, ○ = any kick



ANABAKIS MUMMY

The largest character in the game is reserved for our Ganksters, as Anabakis is the most difficult to control fighter in the entire game (Shulien, anybody!). However, once you persevere with this Egyptian ruler, you'll find that his attacks are not only the most damaging, but the most spectacular you'll ever see. Sit back and watch the monumental results of a once-powerful ruler quake with power, with the ability to even swallow an opponent's projectile attack and fire it back at them!

SUMMONING POWERS

SPIRIT REFLECTION WIND	○, ○, ○ = any kick
SPIRIT REFLECTION GALE	○, ○, ○ = any punch (after winds)
ROYAL JUDGMENT	○, ○, ○ = any punch
COBRA BLOW	○, ○ = any punch
SARCOPHAGUS DANCE	same strength punch and kick
MUMMY DROP	○, ○, ○ = any punch

CHANNELLED POWERS

SARCOPHAGUS EMISSION	Light Punch, Light Punch, ○, Light Kick, Pierce Punch
ASTRAL VISION	Light Punch, Light Punch, ○, Medium Punch, Pierce Punch
VALLEYRLE YARN	○, ○, ○, ○, ○ = any kick





Making waves on an advancing enemy, Rikuo's special has to be seen to be believed!



A rather special (spear-based) attack leaves your opponent really rather sick.



RIKUO MERMAN

Ruler of the water and rather like Gen-an (a player in SMK's seminal Samurai Showdown), as our aquatic monster has pectoral glands that secret a knock-out poison that sends an opponent into deep slumber (useful for dissuading aerial attacks). Quick but with limited power, Rikuo (or AkaBath for those with an import copy of the game) comes into his own with some excellent specials.

SUMMONING POWERS

BOING WAVE	□, △, ○ + any punch
PONCH BREATH	□, △, ○ + any kick
SCREW JET	△, ○ + any punch
TRICK FISH	△, ○ + Kick
CRYSTAL LANCER	□, △, ○, ○, ○ + any punch
SEA 1 HEFTING	□, △, ○, ○, ○ + any kick
SPINNING CURRENT	□, ○, △, Pierce

CHANNELLED LIFE POWERS

AQUA SPREAD	□, △, ○ + two punches or two kicks
WATER JAIL	□, ○, △ + two punches
SEA RAGE	□, △, ○, △, ○ + five punches
DIRECT SCISSORS	□, △ + five punches



DONOVAN BAINE DARK HUNTER

Arguably the most well-rounded of all the characters, and sporting more than his fair share of spectacular moves, the newest recruit to the world of Darkstalkers is yet another character that should be mastered instantly, only to be played again and again thanks to his excellent combat potential, such as his killer shovelling attack and extremely weird Channelled powers.

SUMMONING POWERS

EMERGENCY SWORD	□, ○, △ any punch
BLIZZARD SWORD	△, ○, △, △, ○ + any punch
LIGHTING SWORD	□, △, ○ + any punch, tap any punch
WIND-RED PLANT	same strength punch and kick
WIND-RED SWORD	Punch + Kick (after Plant)
WIND-RED AIR	Jump, Punch + Kick
DRAGON GRAPPLE	□, △, ○, ○, ○ + any punch

CHANNELLED POWERS

PRESS OF DEATH	□, △, ○, △, ○ + any kick
GRUDGE IMMORTAL	Medium Punch, Light Punch, △ Light Kick, Medium Kick

BISHAMON SAMURAI

With an awesomely cute Japanese Akita yapping in the background stage, our man of honour and once proud samurai can coax an opponent into action and then finish them with a rather neat line in shattering katana attacks. His run-through attacks are very effective, and these strong and hard-hitting attacks make him a force to be reckoned with, no matter which opponent is facing you.

SUMMONING POWERS

SNAP SWORD	□, △, ○, △, ○ + any punch (return press ○ + any punch)
STUNN WIND	□, △, ○ + any punch after return
SEAL OF DEATH	Jump, □, △, ○ + any punch
RESING BLADE	□, △, ○ + any punch (special guard reversal)
HIGH QUICK SLASH	Charge □, ○ + any punch
LOW QUICK SLASH	Charge □, ○ + any kick
EXESULT GARDEN	□, △, ○, ○, △, ○, △, ○, △ + any punch

CHANNELLED POWERS

DEMON-HEAD TRIST	□, △, △, ○, ○ + two punches
DEMON-HEAD GRAB	□, △, △, ○, ○ + two punches (close)
MULTIPLE SLASH	□, △, ○, △, ○ + two kicks



Bishamon has the ability to drag a struggling opponent towards him once his sword slash has connected. Time for a rest of upbasking!



Love creating old Bish's more gory take-down, you see experienced brilliant fables of gone Taki that, Yell! Isreal!





The amazing dancing feet, in mid-jubilation after taking down Fishman, is a most impressive moment. The action doesn't stop there either, as Billy tries to rescue a killer whale's corpse!



SASQUATCH BIGFOOT

With some Mortal Kombat Sub-Zero effects, the feet gardenerman with a penchant for wanton destruction has a throw attack that has to be seen to be believed, and some pretty natty projectile attacks to boot. With a Channelled power that cannot be blocked, this whole summoner and man-mountain should provide enough variation and humour for the most battle-weary player.

SUMMONING POWERS

BIG SNOW	□, □, □ + any punch
BIG THUNDER	□, □, □ + any kick
BIG TOWERS	□, □ + any punch
BIG CHLORE	□, □, □ + any kick
BIG BRANCH	□, □, □, □, □ + any punch
BIG DRINK	□, □, □, □, □, □, □, □ + any kick

CHANNELLED POWERS

BIG FREEZER	□, □, □, □, □ + two punches
BIG EGGHAM	□, □, □, □, □ + two kicks



HUITZIL KILLER MACHINE

One of the few original characters in the game (the X-men level was based on this robotic chug), Huitzil (aka Phobos) uses projectiles to great effect, and with good reason as he is rather cumbersome to play with. Learn to try your opposition from a distance with this player, and watch for his multi-lancing optical beams. A tad slow, but an interesting fighter nevertheless.

SUMMONING POWERS

PLASMA BEAM	□, □, □ + any punch
WRIGHT LAUNCHER	□, □, □ + any kick
DEMOGORE VULCAN	□, □, □ + any punch
REFLECT WALL	□, □, □ + any punch
CRUIST SCRAPPER	□, □, □, □, □ + any punch
HEROIC PULS	□, □, □ + any punch (guard reversal only)

CHANNELLED POWERS

CONFUSION	□, □, □ + two kicks
FINAL GUARDIAN	□, □, □, □, □ + two locks



This ancient warhead is the product of a long-forgotten civilisation, but one still held in high esteem in the combat arena.



Volley! Here our optician chug manages to catch a past king of Egypt straight in the midriff with a frozen rap.



PYRON SPACE RULER

Both Huitzil and Pyron were bosses in the first Demolition game, and Pyron remains equally as fun to play (and bears an uncanny resemblance to Dio from SNK's World Heroes game), but lacks the longevity due to no real combo potential. However, those wanting to control the most colourful Darkstarball should look no further than his towering mouthful of light.

SUMMONING POWERS

SOX SWASHER	□, □, □ + any punch
AIR SOX SWASHER	Jump, □, □, □ + any punch
ZORING FINE	□, □, □ + any punch
ORBITER SLAZE	Jump, □, □, □ + any kick
GALAXY TAP	□, □, □ + punch or kick
PLANET BURNING	□, □, □, □, □ + any punch

CHANNELLED POWERS

COSMO DISRUPTION	□, □, □, □, □ + two punches
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Not only is SEGA SATURN MAGAZINE content in detail all the moves of every character, but we've thrown in all the available cheats as well! The following cunning button pressings allow the player to increase the speed, break the character colours and even commence a spot of bloodletting against the original Darkstalkers backlogs! Are we good to you, or what? (Note that all cheats have been verified only on the Japanese version of the game).

MORRIGAN ENTERS CIVVY STREET!

Firstly, the succubus can change into a different set of clothing instead of performing a victory dance. To achieve this, win your round of fighting and then press the left or right shoulder buttons, and Morrigan transforms into the undead about town: complete with mini-skirt and crop-top. Try holding all three kick buttons and a smarter outfit is available. But are there any more...?



Shoulder buttons suit down, and Morrigan takes out of her rump costume. Well, hello!



Three kick buttons and you get Morrigan in attractive day wear. Mmm, lovely.

ORIGINAL BACKDROPS... AND MORE!

To return to the original version of the game for the game but your PlayStation-owning mates will be playing at a vastly slower speed with less frames of animation, try the following cheat that enables a secret options screen. From the main title screen, select options and from there highlight the configuration selection. Once highlighted, quickly press R, X, down, A and Y and you should hear a spot effect sound. Hey presto, a new 'appendix' screen is able to be accessed where you can change and break a variety of options, including the choosing of the uniform of your computer-controlled entities, as well as the original Darkstalkers backgrounds and music (and introduction).



AN OUTFIT FOR EVERY OCCASION!

There are a total of eight colours for each of your characters, from the original hues of the first Darkstalkers game, to the excellent 'Gothic' costumes hidden away in there (check out Felice in this colour!). Once you've entered the character select screen, highlight your chosen one and then press X, Y, Z, A, B, C or Start for the seven usual characters. The secret colours are activated by pressing (and holding down) X and B together until the portrait changes to the new colour.



ENTER THE ARENA IN SUPER TURBO MODE!

Enter the options screen and highlight the turbo mode, before pressing X, A, forward, A and Z, and then hold down right to cycle through the extra turbo stars. After you've selected the speed that suits you best, you are whisked off for lightning-quick confrontations with the enemy. Remember that the faster the game, the more difficult the Character Moves are to execute.

Tips



ULTIMATE MORTAL KOMBAT 3

Until now, we've been telling you that there are 22 playable characters in UMK3, but we now know that there are at least 23! The latest to be discovered is the original human version of Smoke. To access him, follow these instructions: Select regular Smoke as usual, then hold HP, HK, BK, R, and away from your opponent. Keep them held until the fight starts and you'll transform into the original Smoke! His moves are very similar to Scorpion's.

KEY

△	UP	○	DOWNWARD	HK	BLOCK
□	DOWN	HP	SHOULDER	R	BACK
▽	FORWARD	LP	LOW PUNCH	HK	HEAD BASH

OLD SMOKE

BARPOON	Q, Q, CLIP
TELEPORT PUNCH	Q, CLIP
AIR THROU	BK level-air
FATALITIES	
DISCAPTATION REALITY	R, BK, R, R, HK
FINISHING	Unknown
SABALITY	Q, Q, Q, Q, HP
ARMALITY	Unknown
FT FATALITY	Hold BK - press Q, Q, Q, LP



NHL ALL-STAR HOCKEY

To power any of the players up to the absolute maximum, go to the Player Attributes screen, hold A+B+C+X+Y+Z and tap Up. This will let you boost every stat to the top. To get loads of hidden game modes, select a two-player game and press the 3+Y+Z+L+R buttons during the player introductions. Then, when the National Anthem is playing, press:

- L+R Big Players
- A+B Mini Players
- A+Y+Z Upside-down Players
- A+X Puck slides to the center
- X+Y+R Bouncy Puck



By performing the cheat on the screen to the right, your entire pool will be increased, making it possible to create the perfect player!



NIGHT WARRIORS

If you can't manage to perform any of the Chain Combos during the game, this tip will help you learn. Start a fight and select Auto Guard mode. Now, when playing, press all three punches or all three kicks to perform a giant Auto-Chain Combo! To access the hidden "Screen Mode" option, first go to the options screen. Now hold the Left and Right buttons and repeatedly press Up then Down until the new option appears. You can now select either Saturn or Arcade screen modes.



There isn't much noticeable difference between the screen modes.



X-MEN: CHILDREN OF THE ATOM

There's a hidden "Screen Mode" cheat in *X-Men* as well as *Night Warriors*. To do it, just do the same as before. Go to the options screen, hold L and R and tap Up then Down repeatedly until the option appears.

If you think you're really good at the game, you can fight against an extra-hard CPU-controlled Akuma. We don't know the exact way at the moment, but you'll get him if you do this. Play the game on level 8 difficulty and get at least a perfect victory in the final round. This will call Akuma to fight you just before Juggernaut.



On this screen, hold L and R and keep tapping Up then Down until the new Screen Mode option appears at the bottom. Hit U.



THE HORDE

Thanks to Graham Williams from Cornwall and Stephen Keys from Huddersfield for giving us these cheats. They should all be entered when the game is paused.

30,000 Coins

Show whole map

Get all items and weapons

Speed up

Invincibility

Play after village is destroyed

Level Skip

Left, A, A, S, Left, A, Right, Down

Left, A, Up, Down, S, A, A, S

S, Right, A, Left, Left, Down, Right, A, A, Left

S, Right, A, Down

S, Up, Right, Down, A, Down, A, Right

A, Down, Down, Right, A, Down

Down, A, Left, Left, Down, A, A, Right



Once you've given yourself loads of cash, use the other cheats to reveal the whole map and get all the items.



Just look at the bottom-right box - 30,000 coins!



ARCADE TIPS

SEGA RALLY

Thanks very much to Nick Palmer from Gosham House, Nr. Maidenhead for feeding these cheats for the arcade version of *Sega Rally*.

To access the Lakeside course in practice or multi-player mode, go to the track select screen. Now highlight the Mountain course, hold the brake pedal down and enter this sequence with the gearstick:

up, neutral, and, neutral, 3rd, neutral, 4th, neutral

You'll now be able to race on the Lakeside course!

To get the secret Hyper Car mode, you must be in a one-player championship mode. Go to the car select screen and hold the brake pedal down; then enter this sequence with the gearstick:

up, neutral, and, neutral, 3rd, neutral, 4th, neutral

The car will now move slightly faster than usual, as well as having slightly better grip!



The excellent Saturn cheats can now be performed in the arcade! Try racing on the Lakeside course in Hyper Cars - it's not as easy as you may think!

OUT NOW

GAME OF THE MONTH

SP	SEGA
PRICE	£44.99
RATING	★★★★★

Guardian Heroes



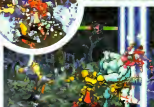
We've been singing the praises of this title for about a hundred thousand millennia now, and we still think it's great – which is saying something after all this time. The secret of Guardian's appeal lies in the frenzied action coupled with sophisticated gameplay elements, including the three-plane playfield and special moves, not to mention the plethora of magical abilities and your zombie cohort. It's great fun, especially taking the multi-player options into account. And, of course, the fact you can choose your route through the game means it takes more than one completing to see everything Guardian Heroes has to offer.

It's hard to demonstrate quite how much there is going on at any one time in Guardian Heroes with screenshots – everything moves too quickly and so many enemies pile onto and off the screen in such a short space of time you can never capture the immediacy of a single level. However we can tell you that Guardian Heroes is stuffed to the gills with things to kill and thanks to a highly infectious storyline, gives you a very good reason for doing it too.

The cartoon-esque sprites, gorgeous animation and vivid use of colour make it almost (but not quite) as enjoyable to watch as it is to play – and it's basically just one of the best games you'll find on the Saturn so far. Easily Game of the Month and no mistake, guys!



Swords, knights, robots, magic woods – basically, GH's got it all and no mistake!



BY	ERG
PRICE	£59.99
RATING	★★★★

THE HORDE

Not Porthage games seem to bring - here's the Horde!



You were monitoring wars and one thousand comes from? Now, ask the short red guy.

A rather comedy-focused game hits the shelves this month and like Discworld it takes a Monty Python slant on life, which kind of explains why the main thread of the game involves nurturing a cow and a square of grass. You get exactly four years to make something of the plot of land and the overall aim is to generate a happy, bustling affluent community. It's sort of like Sim City except that there's little beasts that try to attack you all the time instead of things like volcanoes, or earthquakes happening. Each strain of hords has a different ability and as the game progresses they become incredibly hard and attack you at more frequent intervals. Naturally, your defences become much more resilient after a while and you can even employ your pet dragon to give you a hand in the latter stages of the game.

While this won't convert anyone who didn't already like these kinds of games in the first place, it is a clever slant on the Sim City style play and it's one that works too. If you fancy a bit of strategy without all the dull stuff that comes with it, then this is easily your best bet.

BY	SEGA
PRICE	£49.99
RATING	★★★★★

Euro '96

At last, the Saturn has a great football title to its name. Sure, it's taken a while, but you can now relax in complete football luxury. In terms of timing, Sega couldn't have got it better - this title is sure to receive loads of attention while the Euro tournament takes place, and luckily, they've got just about everything right with the game. And so they should do too - this was converted from the Playstation Christmas hit, Actua Soccer, and since then, the programmers have taken the title back to the drawing board to make more changes to the gameplay. The result is brilliant - this easily outclasses FIFA on the Saturn, and in addition to the superb gameplay, the game looks great too. There's multi-angled play, tons of bits and pieces to fiddle around with and a really easy play system. If you're into football, there's no two ways about it: you absolutely have to buy this game.



BY	SEGA/PSYGNOSIS
PRICE	£59.99
RATING	★★★

Discworld

Tony Pritchett's Discworld books have always been popular with the anorak contingency, so it's a fairly natural progression for him to turn his talents to a video game. This adventure is another Discworld episode and features the trials and tribulations of Wizard Rincewind who with the help of various objects thrown around the place must go in search of, and slay a dragon. In addition to a script from Pritchett himself there's a star-studded voiceover cast including Eric Idle, John Pertwee and Tony Robinson (Blatnik out of Blackadder).

The game is played out mainly as an RPG with the emphasis placed on talking to characters and picking objects up, although it's not an RPG like Mystere where there's huge great battle scenes or anything. It's more story oriented here and mainly focuses around static gameplay scenes with a few moving character objects that can be used to further your adventures. Plus, the emphasis is very much on the humour of the title and in this department, much use has been made of the "stunt" employed to do the voiceovers. However, although the voices work very well the action is sometimes a bit stale and the graphics are a bit poor considering that so much relies on the voices. But if you're a particular fan of Pritchett or you like a more involving play, then this could be up your street.



 **OUT NOW**



UP	VERGIN
PRICE	£44.99
RATING	★★★★★

Night Warriors

Darkstalkers' revenge

Fighting games continue to hug the limelight, and this month is no exception, as Darkstalkers proves to be another excellent combat title from Capcom. And being from Capcom, it's one of those heavy-on-the-special-moves formulas that's always worked so well for them in the past.

Darkstalkers is no exception, but the difference with this coin-op conversion is that instead of superheroes or streetfighter characters, you get a load of cartoony-type monsters, which inevitably makes the action pretty slapstick stuff. As is par for the combat course, there's a bizarre theory behind each of the characters, but essentially the story revolves around hunters and the hunted, so there's a pretty wide variety of characters on offer. As for the gameplay, well, it's all pretty top-notch stuff. This is a pretty much straight conversion from the arcade game with plenty of massive combo potential, spook supermoves, and a general comedy

feel about it. There's no doubt that this holds its own when compared to the more serious Capcom titles such as Streetfighter Alpha, and if you're looking to make a choice between the three, this should place very high on the scale – it's more a case of whether you have a sense of humour or not. But, either way this is absolutely brilliant and an essential purchase for any combat fan.



It's Darkstalkers and it's another great game that's not new!



BY	ST. INTERACTIVE
PRICE	£44.99
RATING	★★★★★

Ultimate 3

Mortal Kombat

Blavity. This series just keeps getting better and better, after the tragedy that was Mortal Kombat II on the Saturn, most MK fans could be forgiven for turning their backs on the title forever, but luckily, this version more than puts the record straight. Actually, this version is even better, because it includes absolutely everything from the arcade version – something that didn't happen in the PlayStation version.

Although this doesn't necessarily employ any huge game-breaking technical impressory what it does offer is coin-op perfect gameplay with more characters than present in the other versions. Plus of course, you get all the ridiculous animal-tes and babalities that have become something of a trademark for the MK series.

There's no doubt that anyone who's ever bought an MK game will absolutely have to rush out and buy this game, as it's by far the best version yet, and obviously the only one worth considering on the Saturn. Sure, there's no clever polygon stuff going on and if you want to get picky about it, nothing's really changed much over the years, but that's what MK is all about – it's almost like being in the Maxims or something. Those looking for a more technically awesome title may find it better to shop around a little more, but for sheer gameplay it doesn't get much better than this.



And for my next trick ladies and gentlemen, I will attempt to transform my underpants into the Lethal Heat!



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MOONRAKER

BY PHILIPS PRICE £14.99 RATING **

James Bond's 13th cinematic adventure is the least memorable of them. It was almost a foregone conclusion that the new guy would ditch the fact that his job was to stop the bad guys from taking over the world and instead go off to save the world. The usual Bond stuff is here, but it's a little kind and predictable. It's not as if it's a great job of Bond, but it's not as if they ought to see it. It's a good job of Bond, but it's not as if they ought to see it.



THUNDERBALL

BY PHILIPS PRICE £14.99 RATING ***

James Bond's 14th cinematic adventure is the most memorable of them. It was almost a foregone conclusion that the new guy would ditch the fact that his job was to stop the bad guys from taking over the world and instead go off to save the world. The usual Bond stuff is here, but it's a little kind and predictable. It's not as if it's a great job of Bond, but it's not as if they ought to see it. It's a good job of Bond, but it's not as if they ought to see it.



PINK FLOYD: PURGE

BY EMI PRICE £14.99 RATING ***

Pink Floyd's 13th cinematic adventure is the least memorable of them. It was almost a foregone conclusion that the new guy would ditch the fact that his job was to stop the bad guys from taking over the world and instead go off to save the world. The usual Bond stuff is here, but it's a little kind and predictable. It's not as if it's a great job of Bond, but it's not as if they ought to see it. It's a good job of Bond, but it's not as if they ought to see it.



SURE O' ZONE

BY DDB PRICE £19.99 RATING *

Surf Zone's 13th cinematic adventure is the least memorable of them. It was almost a foregone conclusion that the new guy would ditch the fact that his job was to stop the bad guys from taking over the world and instead go off to save the world. The usual Bond stuff is here, but it's a little kind and predictable. It's not as if it's a great job of Bond, but it's not as if they ought to see it. It's a good job of Bond, but it's not as if they ought to see it.



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COIN OPERATED

Since the news of *Sonic The Fighters* first hit the headlines, information has been a bit thin on the ground. That's mainly because it's still in development at AM2's headquarters. But, being the curious and determined types we are, we've managed to get hold of some more info and over the next two pages we introduce you to all the characters and get a taste of their fighting skills.

VF2 THIS 'AINT

As you all probably know by now *Sonic The Fighters* uses basically the same control system as VF2 (with a joystick and three buttons). But there are some changes necessitated by the very different fighters in the two games. Rather than using the guard button familiar to VF2 players, *Sonic The Fighters* has a barrier button instead. The main reason for this is the fact that all of the *Sonic* characters have stubby little arms, something that makes blocking look too indistinct and confusing. So in its place there's a visually distinctive barrier which blocks an opponent's attacks and throwing moves. In each match the player can project their barrier five times. Should you suffer an opponents special attack however you lose one of these. If you lose them all you're no longer able to defend and become a bit of a mess really. This might seem a bit strange but AM2 feel that it's more in keeping with the *Sonic* image and they'd know I suppose.



MILES PROWER



BEATEN



Get you never thought ducks could be so hard. Get they are, because I saw a few fighting in the park. It was pretty weird.



Unfortunately though, the duck's absence are not big in comparison to the night of a barroom brawl. At least I think that's what's going on.

THE RINGS ARE BACK!

Missing those lovable bars, rings eh? Well don't worry because they turn up in *Sonic The Fighters* as well. Each time a fighter takes damage, rings are sent flying from their body all over the arena, and the hero th bar moves down a notch or two. The reason AM2 introduced this idea is because they felt it would make it easier for beginners to judge they kind of kicking they're taking rather than pass glances at the hero th bar every few seconds. It also opens up the possibility of using the rings to restore health or act as additional barriers something that AM2 are exploring at the moment.

Yup! That 'em in Sonic! Put the best in play that million character! E...

But don't hurt Amy too!

WOW! THE NEWBORN!

CHECK OUT THE MOVES!

Prior to its release, AM: have decided to bring the expectant masses by revealing some of the moves characters can pull off. A lot of them are quite amusing and it's clear that Sonic The Fighters takes a comic look at the art of combat, using some ingenious 3D morphic effects to create some real spazzy fighting routines. There are of course loads of moves which are yet to be discovered and there'll no doubt be more surprises before Sonic Fighters makes it into your local arcade. One thing still to be decided is how to differentiate between the characters when Sonic takes on Sonic. AM: aren't keen to simply change the colour of one of the characters (who'd want a green Sonic?), so they're going to have to come up with something else. While they think about that, why don't you check out some of the moves you can expect...

BLUE!

ON THE FENCE

You'll notice from the screenshots that all of the arenas in Sonic The Fighters have forces of one kind or another. You may well think that this makes it similar to fighting Vipers and in some respects it does. However, AM: are working to make these perimeter walls useful in terms of avoiding attack (by climbing them) and plan to introduce a whole range of techniques utilising the perimeter fence. You can see one of them already in the shape of Sonic's use of the ropes in the Green Hill Zone arena.

I haven't seen any pictures of this before, he looks like a sort of hostile version of Tails. Perhaps it's his evil half-brother.

WOW! THE NEWBORN!



THE BOSSES

Like all one-on-one fighting game Sonic The Fighters comes with that all important bosses to take on once you've pummeled all computer opposition. First up is Metal Sonic, the mid-level boss created by 'Dr Eggman' and who takes on the role of Sonic's arch-enemy. Should you succeed in overcoming him it's sure to face Dr Eggman himself! evil genius and the game's final boss. Unfortunately we haven't got any pictures of either of these yet but as soon as we do you'll be the first to know.



WOW! THE NEWBORN!



WOW! THE NEWBORN!



**COIN-OPERATED**

DEAD or ALIVE

デッドオアアライヴ

TECMO IN A GOOD GAME SHOCKER!!!

What is this? Is it true that Tecmo, the creators of the playable, yet ultimately shallow World Cup '96, have the next VF of the arcade? It seems that way if preliminary reports are anything to go by - and the game's only 50% complete. Let us take you further into the Tecmo zone...

BASIC GAMING JAPERIES

This is the first time that Sega have allowed a third party developer to make use of their world famous Model 1 board, and the resulting graphics in *Dead or Alive* are nothing short of stunning. Our overseas editor went to see Tecmo at their Japanese offices and found that AMA, the producers of the Model 1 board, have no say in how the board will be used

by Tecmo, so any jokes about *Dead or Alive* being just another VF clone are just not true. As with most 3D games, Tecmo used computer-aided motion capture to make the characters' actions as realistic as possible.

Several stunt men and at least one famous Japanese actor auditioned to get the parts, and it has paid off really well in terms of character movement!

I'M A CONTROL FREAK!

So what makes this game unique compared to the other 3D giants like the legendary VF and *Fighting Vipers*? Well, rather than jump on the VF band wagon and opt for the simple punch, kick, and guard button, Tecmo have chosen to have a three button control of punch, kick, and HOLD! Aaaa! What will life be like without the now standard block button? For a start, conventional blocking is out of the window along with all the defensive/passive game of old. Instead, *Dead or Alive* offers a game where there is action all the time - as pressing the hold button when an opponent attacks results in your fighter grabbing the assailant's limbs. And after much skillful button pressing, snipe tearing and grappling, the standard fight will be resumed. Unless that is, your opponent reverses the hold and does it back on you! So the action will be extremely intense, adding to the VF formula of floating attacks along with feiken-esque multi hold attacks.



EXPLOSIVE BOUNDARIES

We've had ring outs and no boundaries fighting, but in DOA, there's a fighting ring with explosives set around the confines of the arena. Should you get pushed into one of these danger areas, prepare to take high damage in the form of huge limb-tearing explosions! As long as

no cheap ring outs can be executed, this unique feature is sure to be a great addition to the beat 'em up formula.

As we already mentioned, *Dead or Alive* is a Model 1 game, and that can only mean one thing for Saturn owners - a conversion is on the books! The game is not due to make its debut until this summer, but Sega and Tecmo are confident enough that the game will have a pretty big following when it's finally released, and consequently a Saturn conversion is already being planned. Hopefully we'll be able to bring you more on this one next month.



So they reckon this isn't a rip off of Virtua Fighter? Well, you could have fooled me.



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next Month



It's shaping up into a real summer of sport, what with Euro '96 and, of course, the Olympics in Atlanta. Taking in the flavour of the latter, next month sees some extensive coverage of **DECATHLETE**, Sega's all-new athletics sim.



You can also expect to see **EXCLUSIVE** reviews of **NIGHTS** and **VIRTUA FIGHTER KIDS**, loads more on **BUG TOO!** and **ALIEN TRILOGY**, plus all the regulars that fill out Saturn Mag's distinguished and portly frame.

BUG Too!

So, until the August issue games guzzlers, stay mellow!

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